

JANUARY

1996

*The
New Voice*

O F N E B R A S K A



YES, WE WILL BE NEEDING A "DOMINANT BUT SENSITIVE SIAMESE MALE" (CAT, THAT IS!)

By Sharon Van Butsel

We have received many expressions of sympathy since we shared the story of how our Siamese kitten, Kadie, came to share our lives for a brief time. Our thanks to all of you who were touched by the story and shared your compassion with us.

As for those men who are STILL calling in response to our ad for a "dominant but sensitive Siamese male," we sincerely hope that you find what you are looking for — somewhere, sometime, somehow, hopefully in a galaxy far, far away — because we will again be repeating our request to find a Male Siamese Cat to father a litter of kittens at sometime in the future.

Our renewed interest in the subject of raising kittens comes thanks to the newest member of our household, a two year old Siamese female cat named Tillie.

We were looking for a kitten to replace the one we had lost and had made phone call after phone call and had visited pet store after pet store when we ran across an ad for Siamese kittens placed by a farm family who lived near Blair. When we called, we learned that they only had male kittens left, but they had decided to find a new home for a two year old female. So, on a whim, we headed toward Blair.

We arrived at the farm house and were greeted by the owners who took us outside to a small

wooden shed with a large wire enclosure in front. In this shed were two Siamese cats and one alley cat, all meowing pitifully in the cold. The wife brought out one of the Siamese cats and placed her in my arms.

The cat immediately began to purr, to knead her paws on my arm (she'd been declawed), looked me straight in the eyes with her large, very crossed blue eyes, and butted my chin with her head until I began to pet her.

At this point all was lost. Carla might want a kitten, but this scrawny cat had stolen my heart. Carla quickly admitted defeat and we headed for home with "Tillie" in my arms. Of course, we hadn't brought a cat carrier or anything and soon Tillie was exploring the car and meowing at the top of her lungs.

She jumped into the back seat and then there was a sudden gust of cold air. Carla let out a scream, "She's put the window down!" Sure enough, Tillie had stepped on the electric window control and now the window was wide open and Tillie was poised, considering if she could safely make a break for freedom.

I grabbed for the cat and Carla grabbed for the window controls located by the driver's seat. I couldn't reach the cat but Carla finally found the right button, got the window back up, and turned on the child lock so it couldn't happen again. All while driving at 55 miles an hour on a busy

highway.

We made the rest of the trip without incident, unless you count the time that Tillie climbed up on Carla's shoulder and then stood in front on her face so she couldn't see the road.

Tillie acclimated to our house rapidly. In fact, it was less than 48 hours before it became clear that Tillie was going to be the spoiled Siamese Princess in the house, claws or no claws. She's not aggressive with the other cats. She just ignores them and does what she wants, whether they like it or not.

Tillie isn't pretty like Kadie was, but she is assertively affectionate and had boundless energy. We're hoping that she will prove to be a good mother and will raise beautiful, lively kittens.

So, you see, if you happen to love the old-fashioned style of Siamese (apple shaped head, dark points, well muscled) and happen to have a Siamese male that might be available for stud at sometime in the future, give us a call.

Oops! I need to clarify that sentence. If you happen to love the old-fashioned style of Siamese CAT and happen to have a Siamese male (CAT variety, 4 legs, fur, eats cat food, and uses a litter box), just give us a call.

Or if you happen to have a male Rag Doll Himalayan Cat, just give us a call. We might just be able to have another Kadie after all.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BILL CLINTON ON MEDICARE & MEDICAID

The following response was received after Don Randolph, Interim Executive Director of the Nebraska AIDS Project expressed his concerns about proposed cuts in Medicare & Medicaid.

December 8, 1995

Dear Don,

Thank you for getting in touch with me regarding Medicare and Medicaid. I appreciate knowing your concerns.

Since their creation thirty years ago, these programs have helped to preserve the health of millions of Americans. I am determined to see these programs survive and serve the American people well in the years to come. Unfortunately, the congressional majority has proposed cuts to Medicare and Medicaid that are simply unacceptable — cuts that would hurt beneficiaries, their families, and their health care providers in order to help finance a tax cut for the wealthy.

While we must balance the budget and strengthen the Medicare Trust Fund to ensure a strong future for our citizens, we can do so without gutting essential programs and hurting the people they serve. Our nation has always recognized our obligation to help care for older Americans and others in need, an obligation that my Administration will continue to honor.

Even as we work to promote fiscal responsibility, I will continue to fight to ensure that our nation does not turn its back on the health and well-being of our citizens, young and old. I appreciate your interest in these important issues and welcome your involvement.

Sincerely,
Bill Clinton

A PLEA FOR HELP

Dear Editor,

I live in southeast Kansas and am one of the founders of "AIDS Resource Network of Southeast Kansas". I have a brother who is gay and living with full-blown AIDS. His name is Frank and he also lives in southeast Kansas (just down the street). ARNOSK was founded in southeast Kansas in early 1994. ARNOSK is a "Grass-Roots" organization that covers a total of 11 rural counties and is a not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to provide AIDS/HIV related services to people living with HIV/AIDS and significant others, as well as their families. Also, we provide HIV/AIDS education to anyone interested in learning about this disease.

When my brother Frank decided to move to Kansas to be closer to me (I'll be his lone Caregiver), I decided to look into services for him and myself! After a lot of searching in the area, I found nothing! What I discovered was that people in southeast Kansas living with HIV/AIDS had to travel hundreds of miles/hours away from home to receive quality services. They had to go to the metropolitan cities. That shouldn't have to happen to anyone ever!

So, somehow, I was fortunate enough to befriend others (in another town) that also were looking to do the same as I wanted to do. After a lot of hard work, here we are — an organization.

What I'd like to know is, do any of you have ANY ideas in reference to fundraising? Remember, I'm talking about fundraising in small rural communities. I really need everyone's help!

Thank you so very much,
Anna Marie, Vice-President, ARNOSK
e-mail address: sassy1022@aol.com

IN MEMORY OF ROGER LABS

By Dr. Jan E. Hulst

Please publish in memory of Roger Labs who died August 23, 1995

December 5, 1995

Dear Roger,

I once heard that if you write a letter to someone you miss, it helps take away some of the pain. This was one of your favorite times of the year and not a day goes by that I don't think about you. "Night of 1000 Stars" was Saturday night and they raised over \$150,000, maybe this will be the year for a cure or at least a significant breakthrough that we have all prayed for. Rick and I participated in a panel discussion for AIDS AWARENESS WEEK at Midland. Over 100 students attended. You would have been so proud of Rick. He talked with candor about living with AIDS and losing his partner to this terrible disease. He broke down a little, but that was O.K. — the kids need to realize how painful it is to lose someone you love. We decorated a Remembrance Tree for friends and family who have died from AIDS. We held a service for those who have lost their lives and will lose their lives. Rev. Lewis from M.C.C. spoke and gave a marvelous talk about this nondiscriminating plague. I placed a unicorn on the tree for you — it looked impressive among all the red ribbons. I will be leaving soon to spend Christmas with family. The holidays are sadder for me because I can no longer share them with you. I miss your warmth, your laughter, and your zest for life. I will always love you.

Jan

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THOUGHTS ON THINKING

by Benjamin Rogner, Ph.D.

When I read recently that the latest bit of scientific data indicates that differences in our brain chemistry from that of heterosexuals indicates a connection between sexual orientation and musical preferences, I figured we finally have a clear clue about the degree of many gay men's affinity for Broadway shows. If I hadn't years ago fairly thoroughly conquered my science phobia, that piece of news would have given me the motivation to try.

You see, when I was in elementary and high school, "science" was a dirty word. Today I know that's because my learning style is nonlinear, and most books on scientific subjects, even today, are written by and for linear thinkers. A number of years ago, in earlier (Nobel-prize-winning) studies, statistics indicated that people who think in linear ways tend to operate primarily from the left hemispheres of their brains, and we nonlinear thinkers favor our "right brains."

Anybody want to place any bets about this: when scientists get around to studying it, which half of the brain they discover is dominant for the "average" gay man? I'll take dibs on the right brain in that little wager, and I have a hunch the left brain likely dominates for more lesbians than straight women. But my hunches don't prove anything.

The more such scientific data accumulates (whatever the differences actually turn out to be), the faster we'll obtain some of our civil rights because what most of us have known instinctively all of our lives will finally be accepted knowledge: throughout history the world has been persecuting us because we were born different from the majority. That's why I believe science is very important to our movement at this juncture, and deserves our vocal support.

For now, I know of no one looking at the differences between gays and straights in brain hemisphere studies, so here's a practical little overview for anyone who's interested:

[*Whole-Brain Thinking*, by Jacquelyn Wonder and Priscilla Donovan; Ballantine Books, New York, Paperback, 306 pp, \$3.95.]

Robert Waterman, who wrote *In Search of Excellence* with Tom Peters, said on this subject, "As a businessman, author, and amateur painter, I know that creativity in any of these fields requires the ability to think in both traditional, linear ways, and in less traditional, nonlinear ways."

The following two books about science are certainly not just for right-brained readers, but my feeling is that those people and you know who you are will find these books especially readable and interesting excursions into some matters sometimes uncomfortable for them to grapple with in reading matter. [*Science Explained*,

Colin A. Ronan, General Editor; Henry Holt Reference Books, New York; Hardcover, 10 1/2" square, 240 pp, \$45.]

This book is so beautiful you may want to leave it on display, and since it's small-coffee-table sized, you could reasonably do that. Nearly every page has color photos and illustrations to help people of most any age or learning style understand, as the book's subtitle says, "The World of Science in Everyday Life."

The book's publicity release said, "What most of us don't know or understand about the basic elements and theories of science could - and does - fill a book. This is that book." I can't think of a better way of expressing my opinion, after reading it.

The book is divided into sections (Space, Energy, Atoms and Matter, Life, and Brains & Computers), and those categories are then divided into double-paged spreads that each cover a single topic. That layout is excellent to assist us in jumping to that specific topic that interests us, then later, if we're so inclined, reading more on the general subject. And, for all you linear folks, read it from beginning to end if you like. Whatever works.

If we describe *Science Explained* as an excellent guide covering science from A to Z, which I think is fair, here's a good exploration of what's beyond Z. From the cover illustration and this book's subtitle, *Crossing the Boundary from Physics to Metaphysics*, you might get the impression it's about pseudoscience. It's not.

[*The Edges of Science*, By Richard Morris; Prentice Hall Press, New York; Hardcover, 244 pages, \$18.95.]

Morris's text is actually about superscience, to coin a word probably from "the edges of English."

The author sets the stage: "Today there are some scientific fields in which the frontiers have been pushed so far forward that scientists have found themselves asking questions that have always been considered to be metaphysical, not scientific, in nature."

This somewhat more complex (sorry, no color pictures), but still very readable text discusses such on-the-edge concepts as "The Invisible Universe" and "The Farthest Things in the Universe." Only one of the tidbits we learn in the process of reading *The Edges of Science* is that "According to certain very speculative theories, universes (including our own universe) may reproduce themselves by a kind of budding process. A 'baby universe' would be one of these newly formed 'buds.'"

Because there's still little known in scientific circles about sexual orientation, there's little, if any, mention of it in any of those books. That's

understandable. Here's a recently issued book that has no such excuse.

[*Clear Thinking*, By Hy Ruchlis, Prometheus Books, Buffalo, New York; Paperback, 271 pages.]

To start with, this isn't a particularly good text on logic or thinking. I find it annoying, for example, that the examples are so overused and unimaginative. If I read about the same "amazing" case studies in one more book of this type, I think I'll scream.

And, yes, probably anyone who's ever read even one self-help book knows that those lines in the optical illusion are actually straight!

What becomes amazingly clear, however, is how "straight" this book is in its coverage. One of its major goals in several chapters is to reduce prejudice through clear thinking, yet not once is there even an oblique reference to sexual orientation in a book that was updated in 1990 to include many modern-day references.

On page 184, in a listing of groups of people about whom stereotypes are often prevalent, we find atheists, welfare mothers, politicians, and New Yorkers. Fair enough. We also see there Floridians, Nicaraguans, janitors, and humanists. But don't look for one word related to gays or lesbians in any of this book's words anywhere.

Only homophobia or heterosexism could explain why a modern-day text with detailed discussions of stereotyping and prejudice would avoid any reference to homophobia or heterosexism.

Benjamin Rogner, Ph.D., is a Chicago-based writer.

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POETRY: Edited by Brian E. Bengtson

"WHY WON'T PEOPLE SEND ME POEMS?!"

Good morning, fellow fans of alliteration and verse. I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season, and for those who didn't, I hope the therapy is going well.

I have decided not to inundate you with another lesson, since I know you are all busy putting the final touches on your attempts at the Haiku and the Ballad (if that is not a hint, I don't know what is!), so I will instead devote this page to those who actually sent me something.

The first piece is by Ray Allen, a self-professed "fan from out in the sticks," who hails out of Craig, Nebraska. Ray created this "slice of gay life" with an outdated typewriter because "it worked for Jack Keouac, didn't it?"

The second piece is a love poem (yes, I know my regular readers already have heard my rantings about the demerits of love poetry, but this one I actually like!) by Omahan Christine Peek-Blankman, who has helped out at many a community event by providing interpretation for the hearing-impaired. As a way of saying "thank-you" for all her hard work, I am letting her slide on the 30-line limit.

Thirdly, I am featuring a tanka and three "Haiku-inspired" pieces by Mark Rizzo from New York, a performance artist/female impersonator also known as Hapi Place, who created such one-man shows like *I Told You These Heels Were Killing Me*, and *My Comrade* that have been shown in various Off-Broadway venues.

Lastly, I am including one of my own pieces to whet your appetite as you all wait for my poetry reading at the Diner Theatre January 28th. I will be sharing the stage with the "guru of the guru," Fred Zydek, and will also have copies of my book, *Gay...Some Assembly Required* (buy my book!!! buy my book!!! Please, oh please, buy my book!!!) available for sale and autographing. I will also pose for pictures with the kids, if the need arises. Well, that's it for this month! Everyone take care of yourselves. Brian

A SELECTION OF POEMS BY HAPI PLACE

BEFORE THE ALARM CLOCK RINGS

I love the faint hair
fondling the nape of your neck
Breathe you in deeply.
Curling up, warm and cozy,
In your dark musky forest.

CITY SPRING

city sidewalk tree,
dry dreaming of the forest
softly screaming GREEN.

TREASURE

Racing heart, trembling,
snatch up abandoned jock strap,
eyes darting, sniff hard.

MARCH

feet feeling fauna
fancifully flying free.
My kite.

SUPERMARKET PONY EXPRESS

By Ray Allen

He wants him
a red radio flyer wagon
pulled down a military street
a gift from the jaguar god

Two clones in denim and polished leather
clown for a camera
actors disguised as fashion models
as the sky grows darker
clouds pregnant with rain
heaving and sighing
and giving birth to vegetation

Two clones don't care
they tumble in lush parks of flowers and trees
smoke grass and pull weeds
build houses from stems
pay rent with seeds
ambition is alien to them

He wants him
a supermarket pony ride
impaled on a slow and motorized stick
gold paint peeling off
poison lead on fingers
a virtual nation of masturbation
being wasted on the young and dumb
a means to a dead end
and don't know which way to turn.

FINGERTIPS

By Brian E. Bengtson

My fingertips still burn
from that first touch of fire.
I pull my hand back
and let someone else try.

I have built a shell
out of ash, bone, and tears.
My pockets are filled with pebbles
to keep me from tossing about
after a big gush of wind.

I am a small thing
when placed next to the old tree;
a mere season compared
to the many rings in its belly.

I am a quiet thing
after listening to the screams
of the hungry dying in war.
I can still fear death.

I have stitched a shroud
out of dreams, memory and song.
I light a candle before sunset
so my eyes can still see
in the coming blanket of night.

My skill still blisters
from the wax dripping
off the top of the candle
onto the back of my hand.

SUSAN LONG AGO

By Christine Peek-Blankman

Never and always loving...
Never and always loving...
Never and always loving...

Stolen moments with you,
shared only with the earth and sky;
are mine to devour.

As we walk hand in hand,
the afternoon tickles the treetops,
and they rejoice with me at our reunion.

Your beauty turns through
the windows of my eyes
etching itself forever onto my memory.

As my lips brush yours,
the wind catches the trees' laughter
tossing it to the flowers,
causing a ripple of giggles across the meadow.

Your scent lingers in my nostrils
and I want to breathe you in
throughout all eternity.

Precious seconds tick by as we embrace
and the sun seals our bodies,
one to the other,
with the moisture of summer.

The sweet-salt taste of
your skin thrills my tongue
with every kiss.

As we talk of love,
the creatures around us envy
that which they cannot share.

You consume my life
and my soul dreams,
spending all my todays with you.

But as we separate
the heavens weep with my sorrow
at your departure.

The bittersweet song of solitude
echoes around me,
predicting my life's journey.

As the night surrounds me,
my mind re-creates the day and
my arms encircle only the darkness.

The moon and the stars
pity my mortality and
reflect my spider web of hope.

Never and always loving...
Never and always loving...
Never and always loving...

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- 4.) **Buy my book already!!!!**
- 5.) If all your freinds jumped off a bridge, would you do that too?!

FEATURES

CONSUMER'S GUIDE TO THERAPY

by Joseph Schuman

A few months ago, I told my pal Wayne I was thinking about more group therapy. "Geez, Joe," Wayne said. "When will you be the big C-cured?"

"In lots of ways," I answered, "I'm fine. But in lots of other ways, I'm still the *other* big C-crazy!" Then I explained the Joe Schuman Theory of Therapy. Wayne found my ideas helpful...for once.

My supply of ideas is limited so it's not surprising that I'd given the same explanation to my friend Michael. But it *was* surprising when Michael said he found these thoughts helpful, too. Maybe I'm on to something!

Therapy for growth. It took an emotional Hiroshima to get me into therapy. It was 2:00 in the morning when my first lover told me he was my first ex-lover, at 8:00 I started calling student mental health; by 9:00 I'd called fifteen times. The clerk promised an appointment in a few weeks. I told her she hadn't heard right and that I'd be there in five minutes. We compromised on 72 hours — of which I slept about three.

I felt ashamed of needing therapy. If I were strong, I thought, I could take care of my problems myself. If I were smart, I could figure them out.

Flash forward twenty years. My life works OK, I get my work done, and I pay my bills. I'm not so weird that I'm likely to be locked up. (I hope.) I've got friends. (I think.) I have my lovable quirks (like my habit of telling the same story twice) and irritating obsessions (like my habit of telling the same story twice), but overall I'm no more messed up than most folks. And I'm still in therapy with no plans to quit.

I've been through clinical depression and I cope imperfectly with an eating disorder. I *know* mental illness is real; therapy is treatment.

But therapy can do other things, too. For me, now, therapy is a time to sit quietly with a wise friend and to think about my life. What can I learn from the past week? What went well for me and what can I do to make it happen again? What went badly and what can I do differently next time?

Therapy helps me to practice habits I want to learn; to focus on "lessons learned" instead of "fetch and moan," to get a big picture. It's a spiritual exercise — a time to think about meaning and values; why instead of how.

Some people meditate but I need a sounding board. Some people pray; this kind of pause could happen, I suppose, in confession; but I am not a believer. Most of us modern Americans *do without* — and I think that's a big part of our problem.

I'm a better person because I'm in therapy. I think we'd have a better country if more people were.

Shopping for therapy... When the therapist from student mental health moved out of town, I got a fistful of referrals. I spoke to MD's, PhD's, and MSW's. I spoke to Freudians, gestalt therapists, Jungians. Most claimed they'd do "whatever worked." If I suspected he was trying to avoid my questions, the candidate was off the list.

I can't get help from somebody whose candor I distrust. But otherwise, the therapist's degrees and theories didn't seem to make much difference. Bill Thompson felt right so I chose him. It was a good decision.

...and paying for it. I live in Chicago so I don't have a car. Therapy costs less, does me more good, and doesn't pollute the air. But even if you're stuck making payments on a steel albatross and don't have much left over, you may still be able to afford therapy. Maybe you have insurance that will help.

Group therapy is cheaper than individual — and it's powerful. You may be able to find cheap therapy through a lesbian/gay organization, a social service, a religious group, or even local government. Just watch out for crazies who will try to make you straight.

And a special warning for service personnel: The Pentagon thinks secrets are for the brass, not for you. Anything you tell your doctor can end up in your file. "Don't tell" includes your therapist.

How To Succeed at Therapy. You know the story: I used to sweat about grades and my checkbook always balances. If I had to be in therapy, I wanted to be *good* at it.

I'm not the only one who's tempted to treat therapy like a spelling test. A friend asked me what she was supposed to say at her first group therapy meeting. I heard people in my own group ask the therapist if they're doing it *right*.

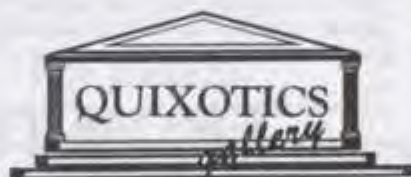
Sometimes I feel more satisfied with my therapy than at other times. I have to resist the temptation to respond to suggestions by thinking of all the reasons they won't work.

I've figured out I get more done when I'm tempted to avoid. But *there is no wrong way*. Whatever I do is OK. Whatever happens offers lessons. If I show up, and if my therapist does his job, I grow.

When Wayne asked how long 'till I'd be cured, did he want to know when I'd be *well*, when I'd be *better*, or when I'd be *healed*? I'm reasonably well now. I hope I'll be better tomorrow, and I expect to heal — to grow — as long as I breathe.

And I'll stay in therapy as long as I think it's a good way to help the process along.

Joseph Schuman is a Chicago attorney. He concentrates his practice in wills, trusts, estate planning, and probate administration. Copyright 1995, Joseph Schuman.



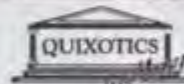
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ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN

One in three Americans will be involved in some form of automobile accident in the coming year. Even the best drivers can be involved in an accident. Many will be minor and result in no injuries. However, many people are seriously injured in car collisions. If someone is injured in an auto accident, they should know what steps to take in order to protect their legal rights.

YOUR OBLIGATIONS

If a person is the driver of a vehicle involved in an accident, they have the legal obligation to stop their car even if the collision was not their fault. Stop the car as soon as possible and don't move it at all if it's not obstructing traffic. No matter how slight the damage, one might be subject to criminal prosecution if they fail to stop.

The law also requires all parties to give the others involved in the accident their name, address, driver's license number, and vehicle registration. An accident report must be filed with the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles within 10 days if the damage to either or both the vehicles in \$500 or more or if anyone is injured or killed.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

1. No matter how slight the accident may seem, damage to vehicles and physical injury to a person may not be noticed for days or weeks. Therefore, it is important that steps be taken to gather information on the other parties and

witnesses. By law, a person is required to give their name and address to the other parties so obtain that information from everyone including passengers in other vehicles and any witnesses who saw the incident.

2. The police or sheriff should be notified as soon as possible. When the police arrive, they will investigate the accident. Their investigation and report may be especially helpful if a lawsuit later becomes involved.

3. It is difficult to reconstruct an accident once the cars have been moved or as memories fade with time. Sometimes, other parties and the police make notes about the accident that are incorrect. It is very important to write down everything about the accident and what was said. Do this at the scene if possible. The police will often take 20 minutes or more to respond so a person should have plenty of time to write down any notes. It is also a good idea to make a diagram of how the cars were situated just before and just after the collision. Measure off any skid marks.

4. Often, a victim is disoriented and generally "shaken" after a collision. Don't spontaneously comment on the accident to anyone. Keep all of your notes and information to yourself and do not comment on the cause of the accident. NEVER admit fault, even if you think you were wrong. It may be discovered later that the other driver was equally at fault. No one has the right to force you to comment on the cause of the accident. Not

even the police. You have the right to consult an attorney before making a statement.

5. If there is any doubt about your condition, a doctor should be consulted immediately. Often, injuries can take several days to surface. It is important to see a doctor as soon as problems emerge. From a legal standpoint, the sooner a doctor is seen, the easier it is to prove the injuries were caused by the accident.

6. Never offer to pay something to another party involved in the accident without first consulting your lawyer. Payment of medical expenses or damage to cars may act as an admission that you were at fault.

RECOVERY OF DAMAGES

The law compensates individuals wrongfully injured by another driver with money. The idea is to put a person as in as good a position as he was before the accident. A person may be entitled to:

*Damages to a vehicle

*Lost wages

*Medical Bills

*Disability, both temporary and permanent

*Pain and suffering from injuries

Recovery of an amount that compensates a person for his or her injuries is the attorney's job. An attorney may charge a percentage of the total settlement so a client will not have to pay an attorney's fee up front or if there is no recovery.

A word of caution. This column is for informational purposes only, and is not for the replacement of your attorney. Each case has different facts with can produce different results, so please consult your attorney for advice relevant to your needs.

Anyone with feedback, specific questions or who has a request for an article on a specific topic, please feel free to write to me at:

Petersen Law Offices
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FROM THE POOP SHEET

by Ace Lundon: Nationally Syndicated Columnist

organized Religion would change its tenets; especially if it's been organized for centuries and successful in gaining converts. Additionally, religiously speaking, if a positive, i.e. "love" is to exist, there must be a negative, i.e. "hate" to show what love really is. Religions also have to have something to gain, i.e. heaven and something to shun i.e. hell and they must have a road map to show how to get to either through their specific tenets. This also brings forth the probability of a "Savior" and a "Devil," i.e. good and evil which "believers" must cope with in their lives. This, in turn, brings forth the mental, emotional, and yes physical attitudes of believers being in battle or war against an enemy of their souls. Believe me, if I had to select an enemy to fight the good fight of faith against, it would be a minority of any nature.

It's odd to me how any of us can hate another human, when we all, no matter what color or orientation, can scientifically trace our roots to the same Family Tree. Even Christianity teaches this in the story of Noah. After the Great Flood, it was his sons who produced not only the Hebrews, but the Armenians, Persians, Arabians, and the Black Race.

So anyway, when you hear a "Fundie" saying "The Bible says homos should be put to death," just remember they get his in Leviticus 20:13; it is a part of their tenets. This seems to be the quote the Fundies major upon and I probably wouldn't

be as vexed if they also carried through with the remainder of the Chapter. It states that if a man foils around with his mother-in-law, they shall be burnt with fire. If involved with bestiality; put to death. If incest is committed; cut off from the sight of their people. If a man has sex with a woman during her period, both should be stoned by their people. AND if you curse your Mom and Dad, you shall surely be put to death AND ditto the same for adulterers. Of course, homos are an easier target as a minority population.

"What can we do?" you may be wailing. Remember: their definition of "immoral" is defined because of what we are, i.e. homosexuals, not who we are as human brothers and sisters. Morality thus becomes the best weapon we have. Morality is a matter of the heart and mind, no matter what OR who we are. Granted, many in our community as in theirs are "immoral" - not because of what the are, but because of who they are in their hearts and minds.

What can we do? We **must** develop a moral edge in our lives which will put to shame the ignorance displayed by followers of antiquated tenets of organized Religions. Morality is the best weapon we have! And that's the straight poop from the Poop Sheet!

Mr. Lundon's autobiographical legacy: The Closets Are Empty... The Dining Room's Full is in hardcover by Ponderosa Publishing House. Visa/MC orders: 800-356-9315.

Well kiss ma' grits and butter ma' buns! Somebody called you, of all people, "immoral"! Well get used to it, 'cause if you're a homo it will continue as long as there's an organized Religion with a tenet saying homosexuality is "immoral."

Consider the Black Race: they've had to get used to organized Christianity's tenet stating they, as descendants of Canaan, shall be servants to the descendants of Shem and Japheth (Genesis 9:18-29). What a yoke! You see, a Religion could also say we are perverts and should be put to death. A Religion can even declare Holy Wars on anyone who disagrees with its tenets and it can urge its adherents to kill, in the name of God, those in disagreement.

So what should we do? All become atheists?! Well, only, if we're totally illogical. Only if we believe Religion and spirituality are synonyms.

We may need to remember there is no way an

ROBERTS' RULES: The Second Time's The Charm

by Shelly Roberts

Helene isn't a lesbian anymore.

That's right, she turned in her membership card. I didn't even know you could do that. Did you?

You think *you're* surprised to find this out. We were *astounded*. I mean, we've known her for a decade. Who would have thought that she'd cancel her subscription to *Lesbian Times*? Helene?! Imagine.

She and Sharon had been a mainstay of our carefully crafted "family." Oh, sure, we didn't get to see them all that often anymore, since we moved so far away. But they were two of the ones you could count on. They had been together a dozen years. One breathed in, the other breathed out. They walked in complete lockstep. Before they broke up.

Okay, they hadn't been your garden variety dykes. If they could have brought themselves to say either of the words. (They couldn't.) Lesbian would have been a nomenclature of choice. And it would have been the more accurate of the descriptive choices if you were heavily into stereotypes. They didn't, as far as we knew, own a pair of Birkenstocks between them. A couple of finely tuned Mercedes, yes. But flannel shirts? Not even on their best blustery days. (Do they make flannel shirts in silk?)

They also didn't own a lot of other lesbian friends. Sure, they had gay men. Matched sets, of only the highest quality. As you would find in any careful, years-long collection.

They didn't go out much. Stayed in their expensive brownstone. Brought people in. Entertained extensively in a closed circle. Had an upstairs gym. And a downstairs office. The thing about them was, even if they weren't out, they were in it together.

And the thing about their not being out is why we suspect that Helene took her name off the lesbian list. You see, Sharon was Helene's first. And, lucky for her then, not so lucky now, it took. They were inseparable. For over a decade. Till built-up steam exploded past whatever solder cements the seams of long-term relationships.

And the thing about first lesbian relationships, it seems to me, is that you don't have to think of them with labels. "Oh, no! We two aren't *Lesbians!* for heaven's sake. We're just two women who happened to fall in love with each other. (Which, of course, just happens to be the textbook definition of lesbian. But, hey, who's quibbling?) First timers almost always spending a percentage of their early energy telling themselves and anyone they trust who'll listen that it could happen to *them*, why, it could happen to *anybody!*"

The real lesbian test is the second relationship.

Because if the first one just *happened*. Then you have to *choose* the second. You have to go out of your way to say, "I want to do this again." Which plays hell with denial. You have to mean it and you have to seek it out. You have to deliberately go where there are other women who might voluntarily raise their hands to play Love Connection. You have to find the lesbians, cover yourself with honey, and throw yourself into their path. On purpose.

Helene doesn't know where the lesbians are. And if she did, believing what she believes about them, she probably wouldn't want to go there. She isn't self-loathing. Just, unfortunately, ignorant of the kinds of progress we've made in

the last dozen or so years about who we are, and how we define ourselves. About dignity, and pride, and self-esteem being concepts that have moved grandly passed yearning and aspiration for many of us, and into present-time reality. Unhappily, that ignorance is the price of isolation.

So Helene will date men for a while. Sometime, if she's lucky, after she's dealt with the dissatisfaction, the longing for something missing and something missed that she refuses to call by its right name, she'll wander into the library, or a neighborhood rainbow bookstore on her own. (You can't just tell someone something like this. They have to *get it* for themselves.) She'll find some of the positive new thinking, will catch some of the new attitude. And, with luck, she will finally come to terms with herself.

I hope so. She'll be a lot happier. She can claim she's not a lesbian all she wants, she can date all the men in her entire neighborhood, but no matter what, nothing will change who she is. As far as I know, once you've paid your initiation fee to the lesbian club, it doesn't give refunds.

And the lifetime membership offer never included the words "satisfaction guaranteed."

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**Does Your Group
have Major Events
Coming Up?**

**Do You Want to
Avoid Conflicts with
Other Groups and
Organizations?**

**List Your Events in
the Yearly Calendar
and Let Everybody
Know What You
Have Coming Up!!**

**Check it out on
Page 27!**

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"OUT IN THE STARS" Astrological Forecast for January 1996

by C. Lichtenstein

ARIES (March 21 - April 20) We have a log jam of planets in Capricorn this month which squares off with your solar Aries fire. Expect a January with more than usual share of professional face offs, battles, and explosions. What a way to start a new year! Plan ahead with a forecast report. Send \$25, birthdate, time and city to Lichtenstein, POB 1726, NY 10011-1726.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21) All these planets in Capricorn makes your quest for the great beyond a little restricted and closer to home. No matter, it may be best to use this time to explore your inner motivations and personal dreams. There are psychological barriers that need to be addressed. What are they? Find out with a Tarot reading - Send \$25, birthdate, time and city to Lichtenstein, POB 1726, NY 10011-1726.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Twins may feel betwixt and between this January with a load of planets hovering in stern old Capricorn. Issues such as sexual intimacy may batter your self confidence. Don't let the gremlins get you down. Bolster yourself with a little therapy or self examination. How about a personality profile to help you navigate? Send \$25, birthdate, time and city to Lichtenstein, POB 1726, NY 10011-1726.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Relations are particularly important to you in January when many planets in Capricorn turn on the spotlight on partners. You can pick and pick, but don't bite. Remember that nobody's perfect. If you really want to know how you two get along, send for a Relationship analysis. Send \$25, birthdate, time and city to Lichtenstein, POB 1726, NY 10011-1726.

LEO (July 24 - August 23) How busy can you get? The new years turns up the treadmill at work when tons of planets in Capricorn get you going

on the job. Thankfully, this energy is not scattered and you will see the fruits of your labor when the dust settles. Treat yourself to one of my astrology reports. Send \$25, birthdate, time and city to Lichtenstein, POB 1726, NY 10011-1726.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23) Fun has a bit more responsibility attached to it this month when a bevy of planets congregate in Capricorn. This is the way you like it anyway. It is time to test the creative waters and see how beautiful you can make your surroundings. Need guidance? Get an astrology reading. Send \$25, birthdate, time and city to Lichtenstein, POB 1726, NY 10011-1726.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 21) Your home is your castle, at least in January when many many planets sit in Capricorn. If your live in a fix up, now is the time to fix it up. If your house is in order, you will particularly enjoy entertaining friends and making your home a social center. have any questions? Check the Tarot. Send \$25, birthdate, time and city to Lichtenstein, POB 1726, NY 10011-1726.

SCORPIO (October 22 - November 22) Scorpios are fairly intense and passionate communicators. Now, with so many planets in Capricorn, your words pack a punch and a half so watch what you say and how you say it. Thankfully, the conservative energy enables you to place a strategic though in just the right ear. Whisper away! For more details, read your personality profile. Send \$25, birthdate, time and city to Lichtenstein, POB 1726, NY 10011-1726.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 22) Money, money, money; is there no end to your interest? Not for now at least, when there are so many planets in practical Capricorn. This is good, you should be thinking of the future, your

eventual retirement and socking some cash away for a rainy day. Want to know the true path for you? Order a complete forecast analysis. Send \$25, birthdate, time and city to Lichtenstein, POB 1726, NY 10011-1726.

CAPRICORN (December 23 - January 20) January is your month to shine with many many planets in your own sign. You pave the way for future success now and it is imperative that you get out there and meet as many new people as possible. keep that sunny side up, first impressions are lasting impressions. Plan your year accordingly with a forecast analysis. Send \$25, birthdate, time and city to Lichtenstein, POB 1726, NY 10011-1726.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19) Prepare for next month when the energy shifts to you, you, you. Now it is time to explore the intuitive and spiritual side of your personality. Volunteer for a worthy charitable cause and serve those in need. It's the perfect time to look back and forward. My forecast report is the perfect roadmap. Send \$25, birthdate, time and city to Lichtenstein, POB 1726, NY 10011-1726.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20) Friends provide you with a new perspective thanks to all those planets in practical Capricorn. If you feel particularly adrift, seek those who can offer you practical advice. Join a great social group and get involved with their activities. You never know where things will lead. If you need a forecast roadmap, send \$25, birthdate, time and city to Lichtenstein, POB 1726, NY 10011-1726.

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SMOKIN' HOT REVIEWS

By Al S.

I've seen some interesting shows in the last few months since I last wrote this column. (Has it really been 4 months?) All these wild shows were at the Ranch Bowl. I know it sounds like I'm a promoter for that bar, but they just have the biggest variety of odd stuff of any "straight" bar.

Muffs and Lunachicks

Back on Sept. 7 they had The Muffs and Lunachicks. First off, Lunachicks were four tough looking women: one dressed as an English maid, two looked like butch schoolgirls, and the lead singer reminded me of a low-rent hooker. The music was tough, too: hard rock with a punk edge.

And the audience was tough. They really loved these "ladies." Then came the Muffs (so to speak). They were also hard rockin', but they cut off abruptly after a short set when the female guitarist/singer kicked over her amp and stormed off the stage. The other two (male) Muffs looked dumb-founded, as did the crowd. It's a good thing the tickets were only \$6.00.

Marilyn Manson

Oct. 15 was another strange day at the Ranch Bowl. Opening act Clutch was not too odd,

except that the lead singer looked and sounded like Henry Rollins. They were good, but Marilyn Manson was overwhelming. Halloween came early as Marilyn and his cohorts dressed in the worst drag since Alice Cooper and Twisted Sister. It was great for people watching, but I knew I was in for a weird night when I read some of the T-shirts they were selling: "God of F-k," "Antichrist Superstar," and "Everlasting C-ksucker." I think the songs were about these subjects, too, but I couldn't quite make out the words. This was one of the loudest and wildest shows I've been to. Marilyn has a loud, squeaky voice that fits the songs like a glove (and not G.J.'s.)

Nothing in this hour-long set was prerecorded like proteges Nine Inch Nails. They wore themselves — and the crowd — out, ending with an encore of two songs I did recognize, though not in their current state: Patti Smith's "Rock and Roll N—r" and The Eurythmic's "Sweet Dreams." The Moral Majority would have been outraged!

Catfish

Catfish definitely were finger-lickin' good! The music was tasty and these four guys from

Vancouver, B.C. were really hot. Not only did they play good rock, (they sounded like a mix of Dream Theater and Rage Against the Machine) but they looked like they were fresh out of high school. Lead singer Kevin told me they were really 22 - 25 years old.

Speaking of Kevin, the highlight of the evening came when he went on stage with co-stars Ivory Star and kissed lead guitarist Storm on the lips! Singer Donette, who is one hot woman, tried to kiss him, but he went around her for Storm. He kissed another guy off stage and told me he has a fiance in Canada, so he can't kiss other women. A likely story, I'd say. I bet he can't wait to swim back upstream.

ROCK FOR AIDS, JAN. 7, RANCH BOWL

R&B Productions in sponsoring a benefit Jan. 7 at the Ranch Bowl for Kelly Skomal who is a PWA. Kelly was the drummer for Nasty Knasts.

For a \$5.00 suggested donation you can see Ivory Star, Zwarts, JRZ System and an all-star reunion of Nasty Knasts who broke up in 1994.

Buddy Gonzales, promoter, emphasized to me that everyone is welcome. Let's all go and have some fun!

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MISS DC's - Aramis & Friends

Cover \$2.00. Our current buxom beauty will be hosting a benefit show for NAP.

So come on down and relax while Aramis & friends make you feel good!!

Sunday, January 21st **9:30 pm**

"Country Bash '96"

\$2.00 Cover. The queen of sexy, Raegan Dalimaur, is your hostess for a fun filled evening of country entertaining!!! Joining Raegan will be Monica, Aramis, Laura Gray, Ashley Simone, and many more!!!

Our DJ,
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Dan, Charley, David, Ashley and the rest of DC's Staff would like to thank you for your business and support in 1995 and look forward to making 1996 our best year yet!!!

RUN TO THE BORDERS

By Diane L. Moore

Happy New Year All!! Welcome to my first attempt at music review. I recently had the good fortune of meeting Sharon V.B. at National Coming Out Day. I am honored to accept her invitation to compose a monthly music/book review column. I ran into Sharon while setting up a booth for my new employers, Borders Books and Music (132nd & Maple). I have been hired as the Music Store Manager despite coming out in an interview with the store's General Manager. I sense that knowing about my homosexuality was a bonus in his eyes as he is invested in seeing Borders serve a diverse population.

So here's the scoop, every month in *The New Voice*, we will have the opportunity to review a couple of music and/or book titles that we carry at Borders. These titles will be sale priced for the current month.

Borders has a long tradition of serving a diverse population. We historically carry a very large variety of Gay and Lesbian fiction and Literature (including Gender Studies). In the music department, I have been invited to grow our Gay and Lesbian music section. We carry a large selection of "mehn's" and "womyn's" music, and if we don't have something you are looking for, we will get it for you. For information, feel free to contact the store (493-9994). The store hours are: Mon-Fri 9am-11pm (the cafe opens at 7am), Sat. 9am-11pm, Sunday 10am-8pm (cafe hours reflect store hours on the weekend).

WOW! That was a long shameless plug, now for the good stuff.....

Ani DiFranco: Not a Pretty Girl: If you have not heard this release, you must. Rarely have I heard so much unabated passion on one

recording. This recording touched me on so many levels, from the top of my head to the tips of my toes. Ani is a bisexual woman and makes no bones about any sexuality in her music. In fact, she commands respect for her pledge to expanding the listener's knowledge of self. Ani brings life to the music. It is as if the listener watches Ani's poetry evolve into a three-dimensional being. Ani will challenge the listener with her brooding honesty. "Musta blown a fuse or something, it was so dark in my mind. She came up to me with the sweetest face, and it was like she was holding a light of some kind. And I still think of you as my boyfriend, I don't think this is the end of the world. Maybe you should follow my example and go meet yourself a really nice girl."

It took one listen to her "Out of Range" CD to persuade me to purchase all of Ani's recordings. There is no guitarist I know of that can bring song

to his/her guitar like this woman, so there will be no comparisons on an instrumental level. However, her sometimes prepossessing, sometimes acrimonious, and always vulnerable vocals have a local comparison. Ariann Anderson bears a striking vocal resemblance to Ani. (*A side note: For those of us who miss Ariann's wonderful talent will have the opportunity to experience her again soon: Ariann and Allison - both of Lavender Couch fame - have reunited!*)

OK, have I made my point? This release is nonpareil. I dare you to buy it, hear it, and take a good long look inside you....

**"I am not an angry girl
but it seems like
I've got everyone fooled
every time I say something
they find hard to hear
they chalk it up to my anger
never to their own fear..."**

Ani DiFranco

EARTHLINGS

by Carol Bennett

Awareness Rampant Among Earthlings

"I am thrown by reverence for life into an unrest which the world does not know. I receive from it a blessedness which the world cannot give." - Albert Schweitzer

Dear Carol,

Where do creatures low on the evolutionary scale fit into animal rights? Don't we have to draw the line somewhere? - Dan R., Hershey, PA

Dear Dan,

It's getting harder and harder to show favoritism as we learn that awareness is downright rampant among earthlings.

For instance, octopuses, ranked with slugs, snails and clams as mollusks, are bright and curious. In rooms with several aquariums, they sometimes crawl out of their own tank and into another where they see something that interests them.

When one of two balls had a fish behind it and the other a mild electric shock, octopuses soon learned to choose the right ball. Other octopuses who watched them learned even faster. They, after seeing the trained animals perform four times, immediately and invariably choose the right ball, even five days later.

A snail I knew - she was in an aquarium of my father's - used to crawl out of the tank at night and travel around the kitchen counter it was set upon. Sometimes she laid eggs there. Then she crawled back into the aquarium and remained there during the day.

Don't you agree that examples like these make a good case for leaving sea creatures in the seas and not confining them to aquariums?

Lock the Doors! It must be hard for a mother mouse opossum to keep track of her newborns. They are the size of rice grains.

Dear Carol,

I have enclosed an article from my hometown paper. It describes canine treatment compliments of this puppy mill state. I found it extremely disturbing to say the least. Please do something if you can, pray for the animals if you can't. Good day. - w Michael M. Atchison, KS.

Dear Michael,

Thanks for the uplifting article - not! This heart-rending account of the euthanasia of dog after homeless dog at the city pound could have been written about almost every town in the nation. There are millions of homeless dogs in this country.

That's why national humane organizations are now promoting local ordinances to curtail the breeding of more dogs. Many dog breeders oppose these ordinances. They want to limit breeding only at the irresponsible puppy mills that churn out, under miserable conditions, puppies for pet shops and other dog "users."

But every purpose-bred puppy who finds a home pushes a homeless dog into the euthanasia room. It's that simple. This fact would come home to breeders if they would volunteer regularly to euthanize the trusting, hopeful animals at their local shelter. That's when looking into a pair of questioning brown eyes becomes very personal. I know. I've been there.

The American Humane Association and newspaper columnist Mike Capuzzo have started a campaign to get President Clinton to set a great example by adopting a dog from a shelter. To support their petition drive, send your name and address to: Adopt-A-Mutt campaign, P.O. Box 63, Riverton, NJ 08077.

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SQUEAKS FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE

"Uncle Rocky! Come see my new room! Oh, it's just the grandest thing I've ever seen!"

Aching back and weary feet were no match for her enthusiasm, so I got out of my newly-relocated recliner and followed little Sara through the maze to her new room. Indeed, it was glorious! Clean and fresh, no more cobwebs, the dust of more than 100 years gone, and those dangling electric wires now carefully tucked in conduits.

"Isn't it beautiful?" she quizzed. "I can hardly believe how wonderful it is! And to think—last week I was all scared because the old things were being taken away by folks with hammers and wrecking bars. If I had known how wonderful it was going to be, I might have helped somehow instead of crying about what was happening!"

And that got me to thinking—really thinking—about how difficult it is for us to accept change. Here we lived in a building built in 1886, with all the accumulated spiderwebs, dust and debris of that entire period of time. But we loved it! And we were really threatened when the work people started tearing it away. We rushed to get everything put up safely, and then we hid until we knew what was going to happen.

First they took down the suspended ceiling where we had played so many games of hide-and-seek and touch. It seemed such a tragedy to us! Then the old plaster and the lathe were torn away, leaving everything exposed!!! How embarrassing! They even found the remains of one of our old nests, which they threw away. And good riddance, too! It had not been used in years, and since they were hauling off the trash—well, why not? But we felt so insecure when all the

familiar stuff was changing. I don't like change, do you? It feels good to have everything stay the same. Some folks call it "getting stuck in a rut," but I prefer to think of it as a "comfort groove." But then, again, I've heard someone say that the only difference between a rut and a groove is the length of it! Hmmm!

Well. Obviously things were changing around our Church house! We didn't know what to think at first, but we soon discovered that a new suspended ceiling was going in, brick walls were to get covered with insulation and sheetrock, and new light fixtures were being installed. Wow! What a difference it makes! We can actually see where we are going now instead of having to count how many steps we take before we turn to find our way through the dark hallways!

And have you even seen such diligence? There were so many people there—our people—ready with hammers, saws, wheelbarrows, pinch bars, brooms, vacuum cleaners, mops. Just everything one would need to get the old ceiling down and the new one up!

The our job began. Getting everyone situated again in the new quarters; hauling our furniture back where we wanted it; learning all the various pathways we will so soon be navigating just like before when it was so dark.

And suddenly it hit me! I can live with all the change! It isn't something I need to fear or fight against! It is a sign of things changing—of progress being made—of growth and new life. Me and my family will still be safe; we are even more secure and comfortable now; and my allergies are so much less troubling since we got

rid of most of that old dust! Why did we fear the change so much? Maybe just because it was something unknown to us at that moment. Now we feel like all the change is a newly-made friend instead of something to fear. I'm reminded of a story a pastor once told, when I was listening at the little entrance: "A man went on a trip through the desert and knew he was in a dangerous area where thieves and robbers lurked. Huddled by his campfire that night, he shivered as he thought of all the bad things which might happen to him. Then he saw something moving in the distance! Was it a robber coming to take his money—a murderer coming to slit his throat? Fear gripped him as he huddled by the little campfire. Finally the figure emerged from the darkness into the light of the fire and the man saw that this terrible thing he feared so much was really his own brother, who had come to join him on the long journey."

I'm learning day by day to look at things differently. I'm trying to find the good in whatever comes rather than looking for the bad. And these wonderful church people are helping me do it—maybe not always the way I would like to learn but they are surely providing e with a wonderful place to live with my family and my lover. I remember that verse from Psalm, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou, O God, art with me!" Yes, you see, even one of us little Church mice can listen and learn. And if God is great enough to care about a little sparrow falling out of the sky, I just know God cares about us little squeaky creatures who live in the basement at our Church!

Rocquefort

NEON GOOSE GAZETTE

NEON NEWS

NEW HOURS

NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

LUNCH AND DINNER:

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Appetizer (Choice of 1 per person)
Spizars or carts
Choice of Soup or Salad

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- Beef Wellington
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Dessert - Yule Log - The Traditional Busche de Noel!!!

All accompanied by a complimentary glass of champagne and valet parking.

Festivities in the Lounge include:

New Year's Decorations

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Fortune Telling of 1996

Complimentary Appetizers after 9pm

Bernadette live on the baby grand piano

Special appearance by Father Time after we lower our Big Apple—Omaha Style!!

GOOSE GOINGS-ONS IN JANUARY

SUNDAYS

- Mimosas brunch - Complimentary mimosas with each brunch entrée.
- Show Times with Bernadette LIVE on the baby grand piano Sunday evenings. Stop along if you like, she does take requests!

MONDAYS

- THEME NIGHT-MENUS, COSTUMES AND FESTIVITIES TO FIT THE

OCCASION...Audience participation suggested!

JANUARY 8 ED DEBEVICK NIGHT

- Dinner food and service with the stars Hosted by Rocken In The Morning and Linda Richenberg. With special guests BOYA GEORGE & JUDY GARLANDE!

JANUARY 15 LA CAGE AU FOLLES

- Entertainers Extra-ordinary Omaha's Finest Impersonators!

JANUARY 22 LUAU-BEECH PARTY

- Hawaiian delights and festivities—hukua optional.

JANUARY 29 1920'S PROHIBITION

- "LET THE GIN FLOW"
Vintage wear costume contest—fabulous prizes!!!

TUESDAYS

- LIVE MURDER MYSTERY in the lounge. January theme—Authentic "JACK THE RIPPER" recreations 7pm ish \$5.00 admission.

WEDNESDAYS

- WINE TASTINGS - Proceeds to benefit The Nebraska Project and Omaha Modern Dance Collective...n.m.d.c. Donations / Admission of \$15.00 includes wine, cheese boards & wine seminar. 7pm

THURSDAYS

- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT in the lounge CABARET THEATRE—Omaha's premiere cabaret troupe in January 11&25. With dinner purchase, show

tickets are \$10.00. Without dinner purchase \$15.00. Performances begin at 7:30pm - please arrive one hour earlier to order dinner. Call 341-2063 for reservations. Traditional cabaret, musical reviews, a touch of jazz and a bit of blues!

FRIDAY & SATURDAYS

- MYSTERY CAPERS - Live murder mystery call 1-800-730-4955 for reservations and information.
- Bernadette live on the baby grand piano—playing your favorites in our lounge.

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

- Half price appetizers & 25 juul-o-ram slirmp 4-7pm and after 9pm in the lounge only!

FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

- 11am-2pm art lovers may view and buy works from regional artists.

COMING SOON

- A fashion show featuring the Neon Goose staff sporting Winter fashions.
- An exciting new wine list boasting over 30 wines by the glass.
- Valentine's Day specials.
- Mardi Gras featuring countless festivities



NATIONAL NEWS

WHAT DO DISNEY & NYNEX HAVE IN COMMON?

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is asking people to write letters of support for Disney and NYNEX. Both companies recently extended domestic partner benefits to same gender partners of their companies. While that was happening, the Extreme Far Right was writing nasty letters threatening boycotts in newspaper editorials.

GLAAD reports the misinformation and hatred can be countered with positive letters written to the chairmen of both companies. "Equality is not a special right," explained Tamra King, Entertainment Media Director for GLAAD. Benefits are a significant percentage of compensation for an employee. Spousal benefits are not legally required by law, but are meant to be competitive. "Gays and lesbians in committed relationships now have some right to provide health insurance for their domestic partners when their employer offers domestic partner benefits," King said.

Send letters of support to: Mr. Michael Eisner, Chief Executive Officer, The Walt Disney Company, 500 S. Buena Vista Ave., Burbank, CA 91521 and to Mr. Don Reed, NYNEX, 185 Franklin Street, Room 1800, Boston, MA 02110.

GAY RIGHTS SUPPORTER WINS AND HE'S A REPUBLICAN

Republican Tom Campbell, a staunch gay rights supporter, won election to the U.S. House of Representatives in December in California's 15th Congressional District. His opponent, Democrat Jerry Estruth, sought to tie the moderate Republican to House Speaker Newt Gingrich, viewed as an "extremist" in the San Jose area.

The gay Republican group, Log Cabin, reports that Campbell was seen as an independent thinker and fiscal conservative — his social libertarian views an asset. His victory came at a time when moderate Republicans in the House and Senate were announcing their retirement left and right.

Log Cabin was angered that The Human Rights Campaign, refused to lend money or an endorsement to Campbell. Campbell, who served as a Congressman from 1988 to 1992, had consistently supported gay rights bills. He was given a 90% HRC rating during the 101st Congress and received HRC backing in previous years when he ran for the U.S. Senate. "Tom Campbell is the prototype Republican for HRC to support," said Richard Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "We urge Republican members of HRC to encourage greater bipartisanship in their organization. This was a missed opportunity."

LESBIAN ACTIVISTS FOUND MURDERED

Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdill of Medford, Oregon were reported missing on Monday December 4. Their bodies were found four days later, brutally murdered. Ellis, 54, and Abdill, 42, were active in the local gay and lesbian community. Their efforts included fighting anti-gay initiatives. Both worked with the local chapter of PFLAG and were active in their church.

A suspect was arrested in Stockton, California a few days after their murder. Police said they had no immediate evidence that the victims' sexual orientation was a motive — he was apparently unaware they were homosexual. The suspect, Robert James Acremant, 27, knew the victims through the property management agency they ran. Ellis had shown him an apartment that she and Abdill managed.

It was also learned that Acremant had also been questioned by police for the disappearance of a friend in California last October.

The crime has frightened and angered many. Even though they doubt sexual orientation was a motive, police said they were not ruling anything out.

Before the arrest, Scot Nakagawa, the Portland Field Director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said, "Given the pattern of anti-gay harassment and violence that occurs in the wake of Radical Right sponsored anti-gay initiatives, we are extremely concerned and suspicious about the motive behind the brutal killing. Clearly, in Oregon and elsewhere, where anti-gay initiatives happen, so does violence and discrimination. We urge law enforcement to investigate to the fullest extent any possible bias aspects related to this incident. We may not know all the details of this case right now, but one thing we do know is that our suspicions are well founded — in communities that battle anti-gay initiatives, violence against lesbians and gays increases."

Like campaigns in other states including Idaho, Colorado and, most recently, Maine, initiative backers create an atmosphere of loathing and contempt that imperils the lives of lesbian, gay and bisexual people and supportive citizens. Supporters of anti-gay initiatives poison communities with rhetoric and misinformation that vilifies and demonizes lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals as sexual predators and undeserving of basic human rights and protections against discrimination. In this climate, hate violence against lesbians and gay men increases dramatically.

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US, THEM, AND LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS

by Joseph Schuman

The Log Cabin Republican Club for lesbian/gay GOP supporters is getting as much attention as NAMBLA did a while back... a comparison I suspect neither group would like. Should we support the Logs? It depends, on *whose* support, and *what kind* of support, we're talking about.

Who's "We?" Once upon a time, when I was still young and idealistic, before I got my hair transplant and started using Rogaine, I joined a demonstration about the Bakke case. Bakke couldn't get into medical school, blamed "reverse discrimination," and claimed it was unconstitutional for the school to set aside a quota for African-American applicants. At the rally, an African-American speaker argued that the idea of reverse discrimination made no sense. He asked, "How can a majority discriminate against itself?"

Now, I was there because I supported the quota. Quotas are a sensitive subject to us Jews: when my parents went to college, many schools imposed limits on the number of Jewish students. Even so, I supported *this* quota because I thought it was necessary to fix discrimination. But though I agreed with the speaker's conclusion, I couldn't make sense of his argument. It took some time to figure out why we weren't communicating. To me, and to Bakke, this was a drama with three characters: a discriminator, the university; a victim, the white applicants; and a beneficiary, the black applicants. But the speaker saw *only* two characters: the white majority and the black minority. In his view, the university wasn't a third character, separate from the white majority - it was *part* of the white majority. Bakke saw a university discriminating against whites and in favor of African Americans; the speaker saw the white majority, acting *through* the university, restricting *itself*.

Ways of cutting up the world aren't right or wrong. They are just more or less useful. My grandfather Isidor divided the world into Jews and non-Jews. His first question about current events was, "What' it mean for the Jews?" When he was a boy in Russia, fleeing anti-Jewish riots, that was an important division indeed.

Dividing people into groups is risky. When government officials said AIDS had to be stopped before it spread to the "general population," they were dividing the country between people who count, and disposable queers, druggies, and Haitians. By lumping people together insensitively, we can rationalize collective punishment, like condemning a *child* to ignorance because his or her *parent* immigrated illegally.

Still, we can't avoid looking at part of the world at a time. If we remember what we're doing, we can use different divisions to gain different insights. Feminist analysis focused on division of men and women. Marxists approach questions by looking at people's relationship to income-producing wealth. We think the important division is between people who own property and live on profits from what they own, and employees who live on what they're paid for their work.

If "us" is lesbian/gay Republicans, and "them" is everybody else, then you're darn tootin' we should join the Logs. But if "us" includes progressives? No way.

Kind Words Si, Money No. The Logs do some good. It's swell that the co-chair of the Republican National Committee wrote to members of Congress urging them to meet with Log Czar Rich Tafel. The lesbian/gay agenda will

be advanced if Republican lobbyists, backed by visible Republican constituencies, raise Republican arguments for Republican legislators. As the Logs remind us eagerly, many Republicans have opposed the most extreme of Jesse Helms' proposals and a few have even supported some mild pro-lesbian/gay measures, while there are plenty of bashers among the Democrats. So I'm glad there's a Log Cabin Republican Club. I hope they become a voice that no Republican Senator dares ignore. I urge every lesbian and gay Republican to join the Logs; to send them big checks; to

participate. Most of all, I join the Logs in urging lesbian and gay Republicans to come out of the closet. Even those of us who can't imagine being Republicans can give the Logs this kind of support with no reservation at all. Rich Tafel, I thank you for your dedication! I congratulate you for your courage and accomplishments! Log Cabin Republicans, I salute you! But don't put me on your mailing list. Your fund appeals would clutter my mail and test my patience. I'll give you *that* kind of support when Richard Nixon comes back to lead the Pride Parade in drag.

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GAY MEN SUBJECTED TO HOMOPHOBIA AND RACISM IN BLAIR

By Jonathan Raymond and Jonathan Warman

While taking Blair resident Jonathan Warman to his home near Dana College, Mr. Warman, Jonathan Raymond, Diallo Mudd, and Gary Hendry, four gay men, faced a night of hell. At approximately 1 a.m. October 28, 1995, Blair officer Jay McCrary stopped driver Jonathan Raymond due to speeding. "It was clear from the very first moment that this was not the only problem we were going to have," Mr. Raymond said. Mr. Raymond adorns his car with a number of gay-positive bumper stickers, and Mr. Warman, a white man, was holding his African-American boyfriend, Mr. Mudd, in the back seat.

As soon as McCrary approached the car, problems began. "The officer was very rude and excessively curious about our backgrounds," passenger Gary Hendry recalls. "He asked all of us for our identification, which didn't seem appropriate for a speeding violation. I didn't have my identification, so he really raked me over the coals."

McCrary asked Mr. Raymond how much he had had to drink that night. Mr. Raymond is a teetotaler. "I felt tension in this situation that I have never felt before in dealing with police," said Mr. Raymond. "He shined a flashlight constantly in my face. If it wasn't on my face, it was on the picture of a man I keep on my rear view mirror. I told him that I never drink. Omaha police have never treated me this badly."

After confiscating everybody's I.D. and interrogating Mr. Hendry, McCrary went to his car to search for background on the four men. It is normal to run such a check on the driver on a traffic violation. It is, however, highly irregular

though not illegal to run such a check on the vehicle's passengers.

"McCrary was obviously looking for something to catch this car of gays of mixed race at," Mr. Warman noted later. "Blair police are notoriously xenophobic. They are liable to stop late-night drivers just because they have out-of-county license plates."

McCrary's background check took a very long time. Twenty minutes passed. During this time another police car arrived (two police cars for a traffic violation?) and another police officer, a young black-haired Caucasian with a goatee, got out and conferred with McCrary. At the end of twenty minutes, McCrary came back to Raymond's car and asked Mr. Mudd to get out of the car. Mudd did so calmly and McCrary arrested him on a Sarpy County warrant.

Mudd: "It was a bad check I hadn't gotten around to covering. Twenty dollars."

Hendry: "We didn't know what was going on so we rolled down our windows and listened to the conversation." McCrary informed Mr. Mudd of the charges, asked a few questions, handcuffed him, and placed him in the police car. He did not read Mr. Mudd his Miranda rights. Mudd confirms that his rights were not read to him at any point in that evening. "I feel torn up inside," says Mudd, "I feel discriminated against not only because I am gay but also because I'm black."

Mr. Mudd also notes that although McCrary treated him brusquely and formally, the black-haired officer treated him worse. "His tone when they took me to the police station was disturbingly racist and homophobic," says Mudd. It was around this time that he noticed the goateed

young man, presumably Blair police by his car and uniform, was not wearing his badge.

After the arrest was made, McCrary came to Raymond's vehicle to inform him what happened. "I was almost in tears," says Raymond. McCrary then told Raymond, Hendry, and Warman to get out of the car so he could search it. "It was not a request. It was an order," recounts Mr. Warman bitterly. "I'm sure his prurient interest in my gay literature, Pansy Division T-shirts, and condoms was at least as great as his need to find something to smear these queers with. In any event, it did not warrant us standing outside in our shirts in subfreezing temperatures."

"They didn't put items back where they had found them," says Raymond, "my car was very messed up after his search."

The three remaining gay men bailed Mr. Mudd out about an hour later, and Mudd and Warman finally arrived at Mr. Warman's residence. Hendry noted, "I knew Blair was a conservative white town, but how can people live with that kind of ignorance, with that kind of discrimination from the police?"

"This is all too typical of Blair," says Mr. Warman. "My family was harassed in the sixties because police thought we were communists, in the seventies because they thought we were drug dealers. We were none of these. We are just a liberal family in an ultracconservative community. My gayness is just another excuse to harass us."

"Maybe I shouldn't complain," muses Warman sardonically. "It only happens every once in a while that one of my loved ones is harassed or arrested, not for any crime, but because of who they are."

CAPT. RICH RICHENBERG SPEAKS OUT

Today, I became a second class citizen. Not in the eyes of my friends, family, or co-workers, but in the eyes of the law. For two and a half years, I have struggled not to hear the words I heard today, issued forth by a federal judge and eagerly anticipated by self-righteous legislators, military leaders, and others who wrap themselves in the armor of what the call "Christianity", but what we all too sadly know is bigotry. The words were few, but their impact enormous. "Defendant's motion for summary judgment is granted. Plaintiff's complaint is dismissed."

I read through the 29-page opinion hoping that I might find something to soothe the sting of the fate it condemned me to. But, when I finished, the sting had only intensified. There were two basic findings in the opinion. The first was a reaffirmation of the judiciary's tendency to defer to Congress on matters concerning the military. In my case, the thinking went something like this: In 1993, the Congress held broad public hearings on the issue of gays and lesbians serving in the military and concluded that allowing known homosexuals to serve would negatively impact unit cohesion and morale and, as a consequence, compromise our military readiness. The second finding was that the Air Force Board of Inquiry, held in June of 1994, acted correctly in finding that I had failed to rebut the presumption that, because I state I was gay, I would necessarily engage in homosexual behavior.

I'm not certain which of the findings cuts deeper. That they are both erroneous doesn't seem to help much right now either. It's not unusual or even unwise for a judge to defer to the experience and expertise of congress on occasion. After all, it is Congress, not the judiciary, responsible for raising and maintaining military forces. The flaw here is in the underlying premise relied on in making such a deferment. Specifically, that the Congress held unbiased, fact-oriented, in-depth hearings; commissioned studies by institutes of unquestionable integrity, considered all of the data it had before it, and reached a recommendation supported by that information. Anyone who remembers anything about those proceedings knows that only one of those factors came even close to being realized: the commissioning of studies by reputable firms. The findings are now a matter of public record. It is painfully obvious that they were largely ignored. "Yes, there would be adjustments to make," they said, "No, it wouldn't really be any big deal to make them." And still, we ended up with the current policy dubbed, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue."

Under the policy, Air Force regulations equate speech with actual conduct and, unless you can convince a board of three, presumably conservative, Air Force Colonels who likely have had zero education on homosexuality otherwise, you are recommended for discharge. Keep in

mind the board had no evidence of any conduct nor had anyone accused me of engaging in prohibited conduct. I did everything I could to meet the challenge of convincing the board that I would abide by military regulations if retained. Four of my co-workers testified as to my character and integrity. I presented my military record detailing all of my accomplishments and awards, and even submitted to being cross-examined by the Air Force's attorney and by the board members themselves. Nonetheless, the board ignored me as a person, instead invoking their stereotypes and ignorance to decide the issue.

I'm going to appeal the ruling but don't have much hope of it being overturned. The financial cost of my fight has already exceeded \$37,000 but, more importantly, I've lost some friends along the way who didn't understand the toll this struggle has taken on me. I miss them every day and remain thankful for the friends who have stayed and the new ones who seem to find me when I need them most. The costs have been high, but the cost to our collective soul, to our value as human beings, will be far greater if we don't try. Fortunately, I'm not standing alone. There are 16 others like me who are serving openly. My sister, Linda, and the rest of my family have never faltered in their support for me and so many of you who have taken the time to say a prayer, make a phone call, or send a note. Thank you all. One day, hopefully soon, we will never have to feel like second class citizens again.

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New
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Jan. 7 Show Time 8PM
ICON Presents...

*"Snow Babes on Parade
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Photos: Above: During ICON's Food 4 Thought Show at the Q in Lincoln, the photographer snapped the royal group in the Dressing Room as they waited to go on stage.

Right: Empress XV Brooke Owens completed her transformation from male to female on stage as she performed "I Put a Little More Mascara On"



METRO CLUB

Metro Club's next meeting is January 18th at the Neon Goose Downtown. The meeting will feature a discussion of what's new and available in Gay/Lesbian literature.

MILLER SPONSORS INTERNAT'L GAY RODEO

The International Gay Rodeo Association recently signed a new half million dollar contract with Miller Lite for the next 3 years. The International Gay Rodeo Association and the National Football League are the only nationwide organizations that Miller sponsors!! The Annual Convention of the International Gay Rodeo Association will be held here in Omaha in July 1996.

MISS MAX PAGEANT IS JANUARY 28

Monica West has served her year as Miss MAX and has done an outstanding job of representing the MAX with the same combination of elegance and high energy that is the hallmark of the MAX. On January 28, the best of Omaha's female impersonators will gather at The MAX to compete for the title. If you are interested in the pageant and in representing The MAX during 1996, contact the MAX as soon as possible.

MISS RUN PAGEANT

The second annual Miss Run Pageant will be held at the New Run Bar on January 21. Those interested in participating should contact The Run for details.

COME TRY OUR HEARTS PFLAG HOSTS BRUNCH AT THE MAX ON FEBRUARY 11

I hope I am not being too presumptuous in assuming that you have taken down the Christmas decorations by now. You have them all packed away? Good! Then let's talk about making a date for breakfast in February. The Omaha chapter of PFLAG has reserved the MAX on Sunday morning, February 11th to serve a brunch just for you.

You may even want to bring that special sweetheart with you to get a heartstart on celebrating Valentine's Day.

From 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. we will be serving an egg casserole, special heartcakes with syrup, fruit (in season) and coffee and juice. All this for a suggested \$5 donation at the door.

In addition, we will have some of our literature available, as well as copies of *Uncommon Heroes*. Money raised from this event will help us with our operating expenses for this year.

From the bottom our heart to yours, thank you for your past support. We could not do what we do without you.

Can we save a place for you on Sunday, February 11th? We look forward to seeing you at The MAX then.

NAMES PROJECT QUILT TO COME TO PANHANDLE IN 1997

Spring 1997 is the next time the AIDS Memorial Quilt is expected to be in the panhandle of Nebraska.

Chadron State College is making plans to hold the event.

Often, a display of the Quilt is the first time a community openly confronts AIDS.

Almost 30,000 names are memorialized in the Quilt and by the end of this year 5000 new panels will be added to the Quilt.

Every day, more than 150 Americans die of AIDS-related causes.

Out Front

Gay ... Some Assembly Required poems by:

Brian E. Bengtson



"...a poet of the disenfranchised, speaking for...those whom many in America would like to silence ...

— Steven Blaski

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A WALK THROUGH THE FRANCISCAN MOTHERHOUSE

For those of you who may not be aware, there is a new hospice in Omaha for the HIV/AIDS community. Located at 1052 Park Avenue, the Franciscan Motherhouse seeks to serve those with HIV/AIDS who seek assistance as well as all whose lives have been impacted or touched by the disease.

The brochure describing the Motherhouse goes on to discuss the philosophy behind this venture which will provide hospice care in a home-like atmosphere at no cost to the person receiving hospice care.

Like some others I have spoken with, my first reaction was "it's too good to be true." (I'm afraid that many of us have gotten too cynical as the years have gone by.) I did not rush to become part of this venture, but stood back and waited. I heard talk about this "Brother Andrew" who had come to town but had not even laid eyes on him until he attended Rev. Lewis' installation at MCC. And still I waited. I heard that a property had been purchased and was being renovated — a huge property that once housed the College of Health Careers on Park Avenue. How, I wondered, could they possibly make that huge building into something usable? And still I waited to see what would happen. And then Carla and I went to "dumpster day" in our neighborhood. And in among a pile of metal scrap, we found a pair of brass candlesticks that stood about 3 feet high. Never being one to let valuable trash pass me by, I quickly negotiated with the people running the clean-up operation and walked away with two very dirty, very tarnished candlesticks. "And what are you going to do with those?" Carla asked in her "not more trash!" voice. And I found myself replying, "Maybe the Motherhouse could use them."

Carla indulged me and she went to work cleaning up the old candlesticks and when her work was done, we took them down to Brother Andrew at the Motherhouse. Now maybe I'd get to see what was really happening. And things were happening!!

We walked through the door with its message of welcome and found ourselves in a comfortable entryway adorned with a statue of St. Francis displayed amid a grouping of flowers and birds. Brother Andrew was glad to show us around and to let me take some pictures. The room that will be the chapel was still under construction as craftsmen are constructing a stone altar, rock by carefully placed rock. I had to persuade Brother Andrew to allow a picture of the construction, but I was fascinated by this "work in progress." Many of the rooms were ready for guests, furnished simply and entirely with donated materials. Sitting areas featured a hodge podge of chairs and couches — the style of decor being definitely that of "Early Good Will" — that welcomed the visitor and invited you to sit and relax and visit without concern for appearances. The large kitchen was nearly complete and workers were putting on finishing touches. The "receiving area" was stacked to the ceiling with donated items of all kinds which were being sorted and put aside for repair if needed.

We met several volunteer workers and the community's first novice, waiting to take his first vows this spring. I could not possibly absorb all that we saw, but I left the Motherhouse with a feeling of warmth and of respect for the work being done there.

I found no pretense and no condescension. No one at the Motherhouse pretended to be anything they were not. Instead of seeking the limelight, Brother Andrew refused to allow his picture to be taken, pointing out that he is not important — it is the work being done at the Motherhouse that we should focus on.

The Motherhouse is still "in process." More volunteers and more donations are needed. I encourage you to contact the Motherhouse at 344-4557 to determine the exact needs at this time. You may have to leave a message and you may have to wait a few days for a return call, but, I assure you, it will be worth the wait.



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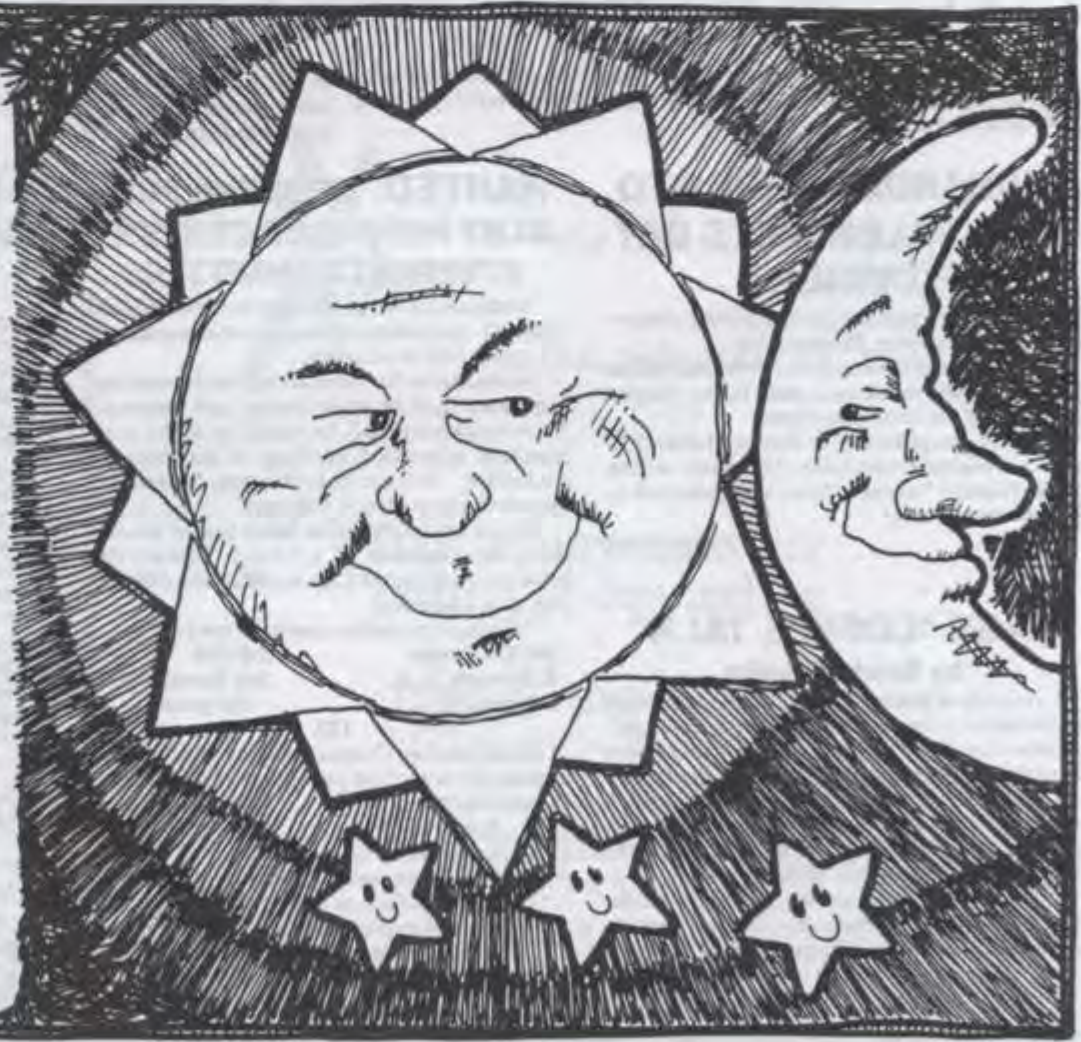
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THE OPEN PRAIRIE by Joe Hoover

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WOULD THEY BE
JUDGED
FOR THEIR
ORIENTATION
AND THEIR STARS
TAKEN
FOR THEIR SOULS'
SALVATION?
OR WOULD THEIR FOES
REALIZE
THAT IN THE
HEAVENS
AS ON THE
EARTH
ALL FAMILIES ARE
FAMILIES
DESERVING OF
WORTH.

Hoover 27-95
OPEN PRAIRIE SYNDICATE ©



NEWS FROM MCC

As the new year opens, the folks at Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha are hard at work remodeling the social hall. Willing volunteers gutted the social hall, removing over 100 years worth of plaster, lath, paneling and other materials and they are now at work putting up a new suspended ceiling, insulating the walls and putting up sheet rock, installing adequate modern lighting, and getting the hall ready for the first events of 1996.

On January 21, there will be special visitors at the 10:30 service as members of PFLAG Omaha and members of the River City Gender Alliance join us for worship. Following the 10:30 service there will be a potluck dinner and a forum by the River City Gender Alliance, sponsored by the Christian Social Action Committee of the church as a way of helping educate us all to the challenges faced by crossdressers and transsexual persons. The public is welcome to join us for worship and for the potluck and forum.

Then, on January 27, MCC-Omaha will celebrate the 22nd anniversary of its chartering with an Anniversary Dance. The Fellowship Committee says that this dance should take you back as we plan for an old fashioned "Sock Hop" complete with crepe paper streamers and golden oldies with plenty of slow dancing under dim lights. There is no charge to attend this celebration but a free will offering will be taken to help defer the cost of future social events.

The membership of MCC-O continues to grow with the addition of three new members just prior to Christmas. Robert, Darrel, and Tim were welcomed into membership on December 17.

The Christmas season was a busy and rewarding time for MCC-O. December 9 saw MCC'ers putting on their best smiles and their best voices as they went out into the community to sing Christmas Carols at Golden Manor (a residential facility primarily for those with chronic mental illness) and at five different wards at Douglas County Hospital. This was an especially rewarding time as the carolers saw smiles spread across tired and wrinkled faces and saw even the most disabled patients joining in to sing the old familiar carols.

Members and friends of MCC also went outside the church walls to take part in the Christmas Family project of St. Martin de Porres which sponsored over 600 families this year. MCC was proud to sponsor 8 of these families, donating nearly 200 presents and food certificates for the children and their parents.

If you feel a need in your life for the joy which these MCC'ers have found, or if you have need for a spiritual home, or if you just want to get to know us better, please join us for worship any Sunday morning at 9 or 10:30 a.m. We'll be watching for you!



Photo: Sarah shares the microphone with her son Daniel during Karaoke night at MCC-Omaha. Daniel's grandmother is Emily D., local DJ and Karaoke artist.

PANHANDLE GROUP TO HOLD VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER

Circle your Calendar for PGLSS's February event on Wednesday, February 14.

Reservations will be taken for a romantic Italian Dinner with soft music and candle lights. Singles and couples are invited to attend.

Flowers and gifts may be delivered after 5:30 p.m. and placed at your table. The dinner will be at the Western Nebraska Arts Center and will be by reservation only.

Out Front

SAGE "COFFEE TALK" by Sandy Vopalka

As many of you have experienced, the weather in Nebraska is rough. It is because of the "cold" weather that the SAGE coffee house has not been available for people in November and December.

I express my deepest regret for anyone's inconvenience. If anyone would like to talk with me, please call (402) 488-4178 or write SAGE, Box 22043, Lincoln, NE 68542.

Starting again in January, the coffee house will be the second Saturday of each month: January 13, February 10, and March 9; to just name a few months. Hope to see you all there.

Happy New Year to all of the Nebraska community members.

WANTED: MEMBERS FOR GLBT RESOURCE CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

Nominations to the steering committee shall be by: A) An existing steering committee member B) Self-nomination

Nominations for membership on the steering committee shall be made during new business. All nominations shall be voted on at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the steering committee. We are also planning to elect an executive committee in February.

If you are interested in being part of the ongoing development of a Center, contact the Information/Referral Line at (402) 553-5803 or join us at a meeting.

Steering Committee meetings are held at:
MCC-Omaha 2-5 PM
819 South 22 St. 3rd Sunday of
Omaha, NE the month

OR

If the Steering Committee is not what you are looking for, how about joining one of our existing committees?

- Policy and Planning
- Location
- Programming/Resource Development
- Public Relations and Marketing
- Fiscal Development

We are also seeking individuals to develop a Fundraising Plan. If you are ready to make a New Year's Resolution—think about helping make the GLBT Community Resource Center a reality!

PANHANDLE MEN'S AND WYMON'S SUPPORT GROUPS

The Men's Group met in Alliance for November. Thirteen men were in attendance. Sixteen met in Scottsbluff for December. The next meeting will be at West NE Arts Center in January at 6pm before Line Dance lessons. Call 308-632-3423 for information.

A group from Ogalalla met with different members of PGLSS on Dec 3 to discuss starting a support group in their area.

Wymon! Learn a new craft! We will be sharing crochet & leatherwork techniques at our next meeting, Sunday January 7, for the yin & yang in all of us. Fun & support! A good time will be had by all. Call 308-436-2966 for directions to Kathy & Melanie's house. This will be an afternoon event starting at 2 p.m. Eleven women attended the December meeting.

Out Front

WOMYN'S BOOK GROUP MEETS

On January 12, the Womyn's Book Group will discuss the book *Serving in Silence* by Margarethe Cammermeyer. For more information on this group, including time and location, contact Laurie 556-0937 (Omaha) or Beth 435-2418 (Lincoln).



HGRA ROYALTY CROWNED FOR 1996

November 11th was our 3rd annual Royalty Contest. We had 2 contestants for Mr. HGRA and one each for Miss and Ms.

Gregg took the title for Mr. and Dave Elliott is the 1st runner-up.

Dana Dahl is our new Miss HGRA (See Dana Dahl's photo at left) and Charlotte is Ms Heartland Gay Rodeo Assoc.

Congratulations to all of you! And good luck with all your fundraisers this coming year.

The interview portion was held during the day the Western Wear, Public Presentation and Talent Portions were held in the evening at DC's. We had guest judges from Metropolitan Community Church as well as the Missouri and Colorado Gay Rodeo Associations.

Michael Vrooman, the current reigning Mr. IGRA was also present. HGRA wishes to send a special thank you to everyone that helped us out.

Charley's Bar of Denver supplied the bartenders, waiters, and DJ for the evening.

All their tips were donated to the Nebraska AIDS Project. I believe it came to almost \$600 for the evening!! A big thanks to the staff and owners of Charley's.

—author not identified—
HGRA Newsletter

PANHANDLE GROUP OFFERS LINE DANCE LESSONS

If you are interested in taking line dance lessons for four Sunday nights in January contact Kent. Classes will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. January 7, 14, 21, 28 at the Western Nebraska Arts Center. The cost will be based on the number of people interested. The money will go to pay for use of the Arts Center. We will be teaching the Electric Slide, Tush Push, Sleazy Slide, Ain't Going Down and others.

Out Front

NETWORK Q IN LINCOLN

Network Q is the first national weekly gay and lesbian TV series. Network Q has been in production for three years, but it was only available on tape by subscription prior to last summer. Now those of you who receive Lincoln Cable Channel 20 community access (formerly Channel 14) can see Network Q on Fridays at 1 p.m. and Mondays at 3:30 p.m. This time schedule should continue for at least the next three months.

Network Q has produced outstanding programs on the last full display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, the 1993 March on Washington, and Gay Games IV. They've also covered stories occurring outside the limelight such as homeless queer youth, the Mardi Gras in Australia, Fight the Right efforts in Texas, Oregon, and Colorado, and segments from virtually everyone doing gay comedy.



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DC'S IS THE PLACE TO BE IN JANUARY

The place to be to kick off the New Year right is DC's. Join us on January 2 for food, fun, & Fiesta Bowl Football drink specials. We start at 6:00 p.m. with game time at 7:00 p.m. (Go Big Red!) And then, you want to mark your calendars for Aramis' show on January 7 and Raegun's show on January 21. These shows are not to be missed! DC's would like to thank all the groups and organizations that held their benefit shows at the Bar in 1995. We plan to make 1996 a bigger and better year, so if you have a good cause, we have the attitude and the space to help you. For Booking Info call 3-44-3103 and ask for Ashley or Mae. Once again, thanks for making 1995 a great year.

ATTENTION, HIGH ROLLERS!

Calling all card sharks, high rollers, and fast talkers... Jump on your sled, toboggan or snow mobile and join us out at the Izaak Walton complex in Grand Island on Saturday January 20, for Vegas Nite. Try your luck at the amazing Roulette wheel or visit the studly dealers at the Black Jack table and much much more. Gamble to your heart's content at the tables winning play money to be used to purchase *fabulous* prizes at the night's end.

For a mere \$6 for members and \$8 for non-members you are afforded \$200 in play money to gamble with hot steaming bowls of homemade soup, and deli sandwiches. The gambling and food bar begins at 7:00 p.m. The auction will be held at midnight. So sharpen up those gambling skills and join us for high stakes fun.

GLAGN Newsletter

FRONTRUNNERS MAKES RUN/WALK CHANGES

The Wednesday night runs of the Omaha Frontrunners Group have been moved to Brownell-Falbot at 56th & Underwood. These informal runs will begin at 6:30 p.m. The Saturday run/walks have been discontinued for the winter months. These Saturday run/walks will resume in April.

HGRA AWARDS BANQUET

The dinner was held at Angie's Restaurant in Omaha, a place for some really great steaks and excellent service.

We had some very interesting awards presented after dinner!! For example: I received an award for "Accepting Assignments" along with a bag of Tootsie Pops for the "Sucker of the Year" Award. Doug and Gregg received a certificate for "Distinguished Achievement in Goat Dressing", complete with a pair of underpants for each of them so that they can practice!! Patrick Bursau received the "Betty Crocker" award, with a recipe box full of "pumpkin recipes"!!

Some serious awards were also given out. Jim Smejkal received the David McGinnis Memorial Award for service to the community. Hap received an award for hospitality and generosity.

And even with all that, we managed to get out of there and over to the bar by 10:00 p.m. for some dancing.

—author not identified—
HGRA Newsletter

DIETRA SNOW HOSTS BENEFIT SHOW FOR GAY/LESBIAN PARENT GROUP

There's an old cliché that says "Good things often come in small packages."

The truth of this statement was borne out by the benefit show hosted by Dietra Snow on December 10.

The set was simple — the mirrors on DC's dance floor were covered with red plastic and snowflakes — and the line-up abbreviated, but the end result was a charming mix of excellent lip sync and stand up comedy.

Dietra was glamorous and, as always, performed with precision. She shared center stage with Miss MAX Monica West and the up and coming Ashley Simone (who began her career as 1st runner-up at ICON's Closet Ball last spring.)

The line-up was rounded out with performances by two members of the Gay and Lesbian Parents' Group, Trina Tabloid and newcomer Ashley P.

Dave Zaloudek, founder of GALP and member of the River City Mixed Chorus, had the major emcee duties for the night, being joined by the stand-up comedy talents of Millicent (alter ego of Ashley P.). Millicent is new to the stage but promises to be a delightful addition to the Omaha scene.

DC's and GALP teamed to provide an evening's entertainment that was light, fun, and filled with the warmth and affection that one would hope to find among all parents.

HGRA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

In case you weren't away, the last board of the Heartland Gay Rodeo Association served for 18 months due to some changes in our by-laws. We decided to hold our elections so that our year would run the same as all the other gay rodeo associations in the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA).

Our new board is:

David Brady, President
Burdette, Vice-President
Phil Lister, Recording Secretary
Shelley Foster, Corresponding Secretary
Jim Smejkal, Treasurer
Charley Way, IGRA Trustee
Patrick Bursau, Public Relations
Jim Bohrer, Entertainment/Fundraising
Dave Elliott, Rodeo Events Chair Person
Char, Membership Chairperson

Congratulations and good luck to all of you. Here's looking to a very productive year.



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"THE FACES OF AIDS"

An Address Delivered by Joe

Conrad During Night of 1000 Stars

There are many things in Nebraska that are certain. Big Red Football, the yearly migration of sandhill cranes, and the best sweet corn and steaks in the world. One thing that is also certain is that there are thousands of people in Nebraska and western Iowa who are affected or infected with AIDS.

The many faces of AIDS range from the innocence of a new born child to the distinct lines and wrinkles on the face of an elderly Midwest farmer.

Some of you are caregivers, some of you are volunteers. Some of you are also those who look into the mirror of ignorance and are unable to truly see what is right in front of your face.

Fortunately, we have come together tonight during this season of life to band together in the fight to stop the spread of AIDS in Nebraska and Western Iowa, but also to bring hope and love back into the lives of those most affected by this epidemic: People Living With AIDS.

The current and future programs offered by the Nebraska AIDS Project need to be guaranteed for the assurance that your children, husbands, wives, partners, friends, and neighbors can remain free of this terrible disease. Just as important are the services so vital to the quality of daily life for those of us who are now or may become HIV positive in the future.

Unfortunately there are many of us in this room tonight who may never see another Night of 1000 Stars, may never experience the joyous renewal of life during a Midwest spring. Many of us will not be here for the cure. We must be more determined than ever to enlist in the army of volunteers and donate time and money to organizations that provide care and education to our communities.

Time is a valuable commodity in everyone's life, so if volunteering is not an option, then donations are always needed and can be in the form of monthly checks or remembering Nebraska AIDS Project in wills and estate planning.

I have been living with full blown AIDS for five years. Because of the support, love, guidance, and the committed tireless efforts of the employees and volunteers of the Nebraska AIDS Project, and donations from people like yourselves, I and many of my friends are LIVING.

We must recognize the tireless efforts of the Board of Directors, Board of Governors, and longtime donors and supporters of NAP. Marsha and Alan Haer, thank you for all your years of support.

And to Terry Watanabe and his staff for his vision and commitment to the future of Nebraska AIDS Project and the Wellness Center. But mostly I want to thank all of you for your gifts of hope and love to those of us living with AIDS.

Whether your contribution is \$5 or 200 hours of volunteer time, it makes all the difference in the world in our lives.

Often when we talk about AIDS we talk of death. Let us not forget the real stars of tonight's event, those who are ill and especially those thousands of stars that are not longer with us and whose starlights will never be extinguished.

The disease of AIDS can change as often as the seasons, but don't give up. Be determined. Be strong. When you get tired, angry or upset, concentrate on what a precious gift life is and remember in the freezing depths of the winter chill, the rose that lies dormant under the cold winter snow will no doubt spring back to life, bigger and more beautiful than ever before.



NIGHT OF 1000 STARS SHINES EVEN BRIGHTER

The 3rd annual Night of 1000 Stars fundraiser for the Nebraska AIDS Project was bigger and better than ever. Dozens of dinners, cocktail parties, and receptions were organized by individuals who stepped forward and volunteered. Those attending these functions then came together for a gala reception at Regency Court. It was estimated that more than 3000 people attended the celebration at Regency and that well over \$100,000 was raised that night.

*Photos: Top: At the MAX, Tracy, Don, & Duano hosted one of the many dinner parties
Bottom: A small part of the crowd at Regency*

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS! A WORKSHOP FOR CHURCHES

Spreading the GOOD NEWS! A workshop for church members, Pastors, and all who would address the gay/lesbian conflict in the church will be held on Saturday, February 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 7020 Cass, Omaha.

The workshop will address the issues of A Theology of Sexuality and Working Thru Our Issues: Spreading the GOOD NEWS in Your Congregation.

Workshop leaders are: Sylvia Thorson-Smith, Lecturer on Sociology and Religious Studies at Grinnell College, Consultant for the Presbyterian Pornography Study, and past Lecturer on Women's Studies at Wichita State University, and author of *Reconciling the Broken Silence*, and Michael D. Smith, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Grinnell, Iowa, Past Campus Minister at the Universities of Wisconsin, Arizona, and Colorado, on the National Board of Presbyterians for Lesbian & Gay Concerns, and Co-Author with Sylvia Thorson-Smith of *Gender Issues*.

The workshop is sponsored by the IMN Joint Strategy and Action Team: Ministry with Lesbian & Gay Persons & their Families.

The cost of the workshop is \$25 which includes lunch and a copy of the text *Reconciling the Broken Silence*.

To Register, send name, address, telephone, church denomination, and a \$25 check made payable to Interchurch Ministries to:

Interchurch Ministries
215 Centennial Mall South, #411
Lincoln, NE 68503-1888

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT!

The River City Mixed Chorus will present its 1996 Winter concert "Something to Sing About!" at the UNO Strauss Performing Arts Center on Saturday, January 13 and Sunday, January 14 at 7:05 p.m. Chorus members, under the direction of John Hennett, have been working diligently to prepare an exciting program of selections representing a variety of composers and a diverse blend of musical styles. Tickets are available for \$10 each with a discount price of \$8 for students and senior citizens. Season tickets are also available for both RCMC's Winter and Spring 1996 concerts. Tickets may be purchased from any RCMC member or call 341-SING to order.

Upcoming RCMC events include the Spring 1996 concert in June and a trip to Tampa, Florida in July to perform as part of GALA Festival V. In addition to funds raised through ticket sales from the Winter and Spring concerts, Chorus members are planning numerous fundraising projects to help finance the trip to Tampa. Be watching for more information about the various projects being planned and please help the Chorus members raise funds so they can represent our community in Tampa at Festival V. Also, cash donations to RCMC are tax deductible and can be made to the **River City Mixed Chorus at P.O. Box 3267, Omaha, NE 68103**, or you can contact a Board Member at (402) 341-SING to make a donation.

The Fifth Voice, RCMC's newly named volunteer support group, is looking for people interested in helping behind the scenes in a variety of areas. This is the perfect opportunity for all who feel they can't carry a tune in a bucket but would like to be involved with the Chorus. Help is needed with fundraising, ticket sales, public relations, and many other activities that make RCMC a reality. For anyone interesting in singing with RCMC, auditions will be held soon. For information about becoming part of The Fifth Voice or auditioning to sing with the Chorus, please contact any Chorus Board Member or call 341-SING.

The River City Mixed Chorus is proud to represent Omaha's gay, lesbian, bisexual and allied communities as they enter their twelfth season. Please continue to come out and support the Chorus in their endeavors and remember, we all have "Something to Sing About!"

ECCA BOARD NOT BORED

The ECCA has decided by a board vote of 3-0 to change its service times to a more conducive time slot. Services will be held at 6PM instead of early in the morning, which was practical for summer months. The 6PM services will be held at the same address, just with a little more sleep on the weekends. Also during the session, it was agreed to begin Bible studies. So, starting January 9, the ECCA will begin special study groups on Tuesday evenings beginning at 7:30 PM. These groups will focus on the needs of the group and will, at this time, have no specific agenda. We would like, as we begin this program, to hear from community members as to where they would like to begin and where they want to go with it.

The ECCA is proud to announce the opening of a food and clothing pantry. We understand that people have needs, and food and clothing are very important needs. We must remember, though, that these programs will have nothing to offer the people who need the help the most, if the people who do have plenty choose not to share.

Many people in this town have either multiple part-time dead end jobs, poor or failing health, or maybe no income at all. We, as a people, need to remember to help our fellow brother and sister, for most of us know that it could be any of us without and looking for assistance. The ECCA has committed to providing space for this pantry and clothing donations have already been made throughout the community. Now we need to begin gathering non-perishable and canned food items. If you wish to make a donation, or should you have a need, call Pastor Jim at 464-0270 or board member David Hall at 477-1706. If you have no transportation, don't let that stop you. The clothes pantry will simply be open to all without the cost. The food pantry will need an application filled out, for our records. Both services will be available after January 15.

Reference to Matthew 14:16,17 - As Jesus said while speaking to a group of 5,000. "None need go away," and He said to the people to sit down, then told His disciples to feed them all. The disciples said, "But we only have 5 loaves of bread and two fish." And the rest of the story of the loaves and fishes is history, as they were able to feed all and still have leftovers. When we 'do the right thing' He will bless the giver, the receiver, and the worker. Only one other note: Is anyone interested in a choir? We are. Stay tuned and we hope to see you next Sunday evening.



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ICON FUNDS RECORD NUMBER OF TOYS FOR CHILDREN OF PWA'S



The Imperial Court of Nebraska celebrated the holiday season by making the holidays brighter for 87 children across the state of Nebraska and in Southwest Iowa. Working together with the Nebraska AIDS Project, ICON's annual Toyz 4 Totz benefits, held at the MAX in Omaha and at the Q in Lincoln, raised monies to purchase toys and other Christmas presents for children who either have HIV or whose parents have HIV. Case managers of the Nebraska AIDS Project surveyed their clients and identified families who needed assistance if they were to provide Christmas presents for their children. Armed with lists identifying the gender and the age of the children needing presents (of course, no other identifying information was provided), members of the Board of Governors of the Imperial Court made a "midnight raid" on department stores in Omaha and Lincoln. Danny, Gerald, Michelle, Carla, and Sharon shopped for 47 children from the metropolitan Omaha area while other Board members shopped for 23 children from the Lincoln area. Shopping for the 17 children from the Scottsbluff, Norfolk, and Kearney areas was done by NAP case workers.

The Omaha Toyz 4 Totz show featured some of the best entertainment in the area. Debuting as emcee was Miss Buffy Buffet, whose unique brand of "serving line" humor had the audience rolling with laughter. Buffy was joined on stage by Emperor XV Annie Welty, the comic Rita Coppafeela, Miss Bonnie Ocean, ICON board member Michelle Korman, Miss Helin Bedd, Inga, musical virtuoso Tim, Empress XII Phoenix Fallentino, Emperor XII Steve Koeller, 1st Runner Up in Closet Ball '95 Ashley Simone, Adrienne, and a special appearance by Omaha's original Drag Queen, Miss Poo Poo LaVerne, to name only a few of the stars who came out that night. The Omaha show was a smashing success, raising more than \$2100. The Lincoln Toyz 4 Totz show was held on December 17 so results and a review of this show were not available at deadline.

A salute to ICON and to all their supporters for making Christmas a happier time for PWA's and their families.

Photos: Top: Michelle Korman, Newest ICON Board Member teams with Helin Bedd for "Crazy"

Middle: Buffy Buffet debuted as emcee for ICON's Toyz 4 Totz

Bottom: Poo Poo LaVerne, Omaha's Original Drag Queen, made a special guest appearance



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MCC-O and The MAX TEAM FOR "NO TURKEY TONIGHT"

The members and friends of Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha teamed up with The MAX to present a night of celebration entitled "No Turkey Tonight!" This light-hearted celebration, produced by Carla Petersen, included a pizza party and not one but two shows.

Bar goers had known that something a little different was coming up thanks to the delightful art work of Jim Gau. The theme was carried out in the Tom Cech's set which managed to combine the comic theme with the elegance which is Tom's trademark. The celebration began with a pizza party under the capable direction of Miss Joni Joyce.

The rest of the evening was an entertaining mix of lip sync and live entertainment, featuring familiar favorites and newcomers to the MAX stage. Live performances by Deb Levensgood, her daughter Sarah, Gary Beck, Joe Reed, Cindy Wagner, Annette Dickman, and the Womyn's Support Group from MCC. Lip sync and comedy performers included Carla & Sharon, Helin Bedd, Bonnie Ocean, Anita Little, Buffy Buffet & Joe Phillips, Mr. Closet Ball Rusty Shields, Sammi Bennett, Jacquelyn Bordeaux, Guy LaChance, Madame X, Inga, Steve Koeller, Phoenix Fallentino, Tim Pedersen, Trina Tabloid, and Danielle Storm. The emcees, Joe Reed, Ronnie Johnson, Dick Brown, and Inga, kept the show moving and it ended with time left for dancing.

All the goals for the evening were met — money was raised to help MCC's budget, a spectrum of performers got to show their talents, and the audience had a great time. What more could anyone ask?

Photos:

Top: Jacquelyn Bordeaux, Annette Dickman
Bottom: Phoenix Fallentino, Trina Tabloid



NEWS FROM THE COURT

By Annie Welty, Emperor XV

Greetings, everyone! Hope your Holidays were peaceful and joyous. ICON had a busy and very productive month with not just one, but two Toyz 4 Totz shows. Between these Omaha and Lincoln shows ICON raised more than \$3000 for PWA children and children with PWA parents. We would like to thank all the performers and donators who graciously gave their time and dollars to these events. Your generosity really shows the true spirit that our community has.

Keeping with our momentum, ICON will present "Snow Babes and a few Dirty Old Men" at the New Run Bar on Sunday, January 7 at 8:00 p.m. Hosted by Phoenix and Roxy, this show has a line-up of fabulous entertainment. Please come and show your support.

Congratulations to our new officers on the Board of Governors:

President: Gerald Brown
1st Vice President: Phillip McGuire
2nd Vice President: Danny Smith
Secretary: Sharon Van Butsel
Treasurer: Steve M.

Last but not least we would like to extend an invitation to everyone to attend our January meeting, which will be held on Monday, January 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the New Run Bar.

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DENTAL - TAX DEFERRED ANNUITIES
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PROGRAMS
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APPOINTMENTS
CALL 345-2329

LOOKING AHEAD – A CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS DURING THE COMING YEAR!

To add an event to this calendar or to the Community Calendar, write: *The New Voice*, P.O. Box 3512, Omaha, NE 68103 or call (402) 556-9907.

February

- 10 – Gala Gender Ball, Cedar Rapids
- 11 – PFLAG Brunch at MAX
- 14 – PGLSS Valentine's Dinner
- 16-18 – Ice Bowl Tournament
- 17 – Spreading the Good News! JSAT Workshop
- 24 – GLAGN Annual Drag Show Benefit for NAP, Hastings

March –

- 10 – ICON SnoBall
- 30 – MCCO Maundy Thursday Svc
- 31 – MCCO Good Friday Svc
- 31 – Transgender Law – Speakers

April

- 2 – Easter Sunrise Service MCC
- 21 – ICON Closet Ball
- Frontrunners Sat. Runs Resume

May

- 23-26 MCC District Conference.
- 27 ICON Memorial Day Picnic

June

- 2 – ICON Stepping Down Show
- 8, 9 – RCMC Concert
- 14, 15, 16 – ICON Coronation
- 22 – PrideFest (Tentative)
- 30 – Pride Parade & Rally

July

- 4 – ICON Picnic
- 7-15 – RCMC at GALA Festival
- 20, 21 – Int'l Ms Leather
- 21 – ICON Investiture
- 28 – Int'l Gay Rodeo Convention

August

- ??? – Fantasy Leather Weekend

September

- 4 – ICON Labor Day Picnic

October

- ?? Fall Harvest Cedar Rapids, IA
- 11 – National Coming Out Day

November

- 10 – ICON Food 4 Thought
- 10 & 17 – All Iowa AIDS Benefit

December

- 1 – PFLAG Holiday Gathering
- 8 – ICON Toyz 4 Totz

TERRY KUPS DOES IT AGAIN

Let us make your next home party something *extra special!*

YOU invite the guests and

WE provide the food and fun...

Call 551-3347

For Details

WHERE CAN I GET A COPY OF THE NEW VOICE?

We've listed many of the regular distribution points below. If your group or business would like to be included on our distribution list, please contact us.

Omaha:

- The Chesterfield
- D.C.'s
- The Diamond
- Downtown Grounds
- Gilligan's Pub
- The MAX
- Metropolitan Community Church
- Nebraska AIDS Project
- New Realities
- Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays
- Retro
- The Infield
- The Mystery Bookstore
- The Run
- St. Mary's Tan
- Visions (Custom Framing)

Council Bluffs:

- Adult Emporium

Lincoln:

- Nebraska Book Store
- The Panic
- Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays
- Q
- UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Center
- Women's Resource Center

Kearney:

- GLAGN
- Parents/Friends of Lesbians & Gays

Des Moines:

- Blazing Saddle
- The Garden
- The Playpen
- Shooters Lounge
- Chat Noir Cafe
- The Side Saddle Cafe

Sioux City:

- Three Cheers

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Bars & Restaurants

Des Moines (A.C. 515)

- Blazing Saddle 416 E 5th St., 246-1299
- The Garden 112 SE 4th St. 243-3965
- The Play Pen 424 E Locust 243-9626
- Shooters Lounge 515 E 6th 245-9126
- Chat Noir Cafe 644 18th 244-1353
- The Side Saddle Cafe 418 E 5th 282-7041

Omaha (A.C. 402)

- The Chesterfield 1901 Leavenworth 345-6889
- DC's 610 S. 14th, 344-3103
- The Diamond 712 S. 16th, 342-9595
- Gilligan's 1823 Leavenworth, 449-9147
- The Infield 1401 Jackson, 346-3030
- The Max 1417 Jackson, 346-4110
- The New Run 1715 Leavenworth, 449-8703

Lincoln (A.C. 402)

- Panic 200 S. 18th St., 435-8764
- Q 226 S. 9th St. 475-2269

Sioux City, IA (A.C. 712)

- Kings & Queens 417 Nebraska Street 252-4167

- 3 Cheers 414 20th St. 255-8005

Sioux Falls, SD (A.C. 605)

- Touche's 323 S. Phillips Ave 335-9874

AIDS/HIV RESOURCES

HIV TESTING*

*We urge you to inquire about anonymity & confidentiality before testing.

Charles Drew Health Center,
2201 N. 30, Omaha 68111 (402) 453-1433

Douglas County Health Department,
1201 S. 42, Omaha 68105 (402) 444-7750

Outreach Center, 1723 Leavenworth Omaha, NE 68102, Open every Friday 1-4pm, Every other Friday from 10pm - 2am. HIV testing, education, support.

Equilibria Medical Center, 544 S. 24, Omaha, 68102 Call (402) 345-2252

Lincoln-Lancaster Co. Health Dept 3140 'N' Lincoln 68510, 441-8065 Testing, counseling Walk-in tests: The Panic, 200 S. 18, 2nd Tues. Urban Indian Health Ctr, 140 S. 27, 434-7177

Grand Island-Hall Co Health Dept, 105 East 1st St. Grand Island, Mary (308) 385-5175

Hastings College Health Center, Hastings, NE 68901 402-461-7372 Ask for Judy

McCook Family Planning, 111 West "C" St, McCook, 69001, (308) 345-3626

Nebraska AIDS Project, 3610 Dodge, Suite 110, Omaha 342-6367; AIDS Hotline 402-342-4233 or (800) 782-AIDS [2437]

Nebraska Dept of Health,
Kearney, 3423 2nd Ave, 68847, 308/234-8183
Norfolk, Norfolk Regional Ctr, Adm Bldg #16, (402) 370-3395

NorthPlatte, Craft St. Office Bldg,
200 So. Silber, 69101 (308) 535-8133

Nemaha County Health Department,
1824 N. Auburn, 68305 (402) 274-4549

LEGAL

Thomas M. Petersen, attorney, Omaha, (402) 393-8080

Taylor & Wild, Suite 25, Gold's Galleria,
1033 "O" St., Lincoln, (402) 434-9482

Mowbray, Chapin, & Walker, P.C., 910 "L." St. Lincoln 68508-2228 476-3882; Jim

Nebr Bar Assoc, 635 S 14, Lincoln, 475-7091

Nebraska Civil Liberties Union, Box 81455, Lincoln 68501, (402) 476-8091

AIDS ADVOCACY

AIDS Coalition for Empowerment (A.C.E.), Box 31305, Omaha 68131, For anyone living with HIV & those interested in AIDS advocacy Call Nebraska AIDS Project at 342-6367

PASTORAL CARE

AIDS Interfaith Network, 100 N 62, Omaha Br Wm Woeger 558-3100 (Chancery) Service: 2nd Monday, 7pm, St Cecelia's, Nebraska Chapel, 40th & Webster

Lincoln Interfaith Council, 140 S. 27th St., Lincoln 68510, 474-3017, AIDS/HIV Healing Service: 1st Tues, 7pm, St Francis Chapel, 1145 South Street, Lincoln, Public is invited

INFORMATION & REFERRAL*

*More info call Neb AIDS Project 342-6367

AIDS Educ Project, UNL G/L Resource Cntr, Rm 342, Neb Union, Lincoln 68588, 472-5644

American Red Cross,
2245 Heather Dr. Crete 68333 (402) 826-3785
1701 'E', Lincoln 68501 (402) 471-7997
2515 St Marys Ave, Omaha 68105 431-4447

Community Prescription Service AIDS Info, medicine, supplies by mail, 1-800-677-4323

Douglas County Health Department,
1201 S. 42, Omaha 68105 (402) 444-7750

Grand Island/Hall Co. Health Dept,
105 E. 1st, Grand Island (308) 385-5175

HIV Clinic, Univ of NE Medical Center,
600 S. 42nd, Omaha, (402) 559-6681

Lincoln Cancer Cntr, 4600 Valley, 483-1872

Lincoln-Lancaster Co Health Dept 3145 'N', Lincoln 68510, 441-8065 Testing, counseling

Nebr AIDS Educ/Training Center, AIDS education to health care professionals. UNMC, 600 S 42 Omaha 68198, (402) 559-6681

Nebraska AIDS Project
{statewide} (800) 782-AIDS [2437]
Omaha Office: 3610 Dodge, Suite 110, 68131 Volunteer Services, Administration 342-6367; AIDS Hotline 402-342-4233, HIV testing, AIDS awareness, practical support, counseling
Lincoln Office: 3818 Sheridan Blvd 484-8100
Central Nebraska Office: 3423 2nd Ave Kearney, NE 68847, (308) 865-5610
Northeast Nebr Office: 304 N. 5 St., Ste C, Norfolk, NE 68701, (402) 370-3807
Western Nebraska Office: 3707 Ave. D, Scottsbluff, NE 69361. (308) 635-3807

Nebraska Dept of Health,
Kearney, 3423 2nd Ave, 68847, (308) 234-8183
Norfolk, Norfolk Regional Ctr, Adm Bldg #16, (402) 370-3395
NorthPlatte, Craft St. Office Bldg, 200 So. Silber, 69101 (308) 535-8133

Nebr Regional Hemophilia Center,
UNMC, 600 S. 42, Omaha (402) 559-4227

Nemaha County Health Department,
1824 N. Auburn, 68305 (402) 274-4549

ScottsBluff Co Health Dept,
Gering, NE 69341 (308) 635-3866

Veterans Admin Medical Center, 42 & Woolworth, Omaha 346-8800; Dean Pierce, x-4119

HOME HEALTH CARE

LINK-ON, 1318 S. 16, Lincoln, 68502, (402) 477-8439, Mon-Fri 8am-4.30pm, counseling, teaching of HIV infected individuals, people with AIDS, and others; Rick Swaink, Director.

RESIDENTIAL HOSPICE

The Franciscan Motherhouse, 1052 Park Avenue, P.O. Box 8393, Omaha, NE 68108-0393, Telephone (402) 344-4557, Residential Hospice Care for Persons With AIDS

COUNSELING & SUPPORT

AIDS Care, The Mercy Center, 427 E. Kanesville Blvd, Council Bluffs, IA 51503, att: Colleen Kibbe-Vest (712) 328-2609

AIDS Support Group, Sponsored by PFLAG, Box 4374, Lincoln, 68504, 7pm, 475-2437

Calico II HIV-AIDS Support Group, Meets 1st & 3rd Tues, 7pm, Alliance For info call: (308) 762-8259

Family AIDS Support Group, Sponsored by PFLAG-Omaha; Meet 1st Sunday, 2p.m. First United Methodist, 7020 Cass, Omaha

Grand Island Area HIV/AIDS Support Group, Meets 3rd Tuesday, (308) 385-5175

Harambee Mental Health Services, Business & Technical Center, 2505 N. 24, Omaha, NE 68110. (402) 451-3913. Mental Health Services to people of color who are infected with HIV, their partners, and their families. A program developed by Charles Drew Health Center.

Kearney Area HIV/AIDS Support Group, 1st Monday, info, phone Barb (308) 865-5610

Nebraska AIDS Project
{statewide} (800) 782-AIDS [2437]
Omaha Office: 3610 Dodge, Suite 110, 68131 Volunteer Services & Administration 402-342-6367; AIDS Hotline 402-342-4233, HIV tests, AIDS awareness, practical support, counseling
Lincoln Office: 3818 Sheridan Blvd 484-8100
Central Nebraska Office: 3423 2nd Ave Kearney, NE 68847, (308) 865-5610
Northeast Nebr Office: 304 N. 5 St., Ste C, Norfolk, NE 68701, (402) 370-3807
Western Nebraska Office: 3707 Ave. D, Scottsbluff, NE 69361. (308) 635-3807

North Platte Area Support Grp,
Call: (308) 535-8133

Western Nebraska HIV/AIDS Support Group, Scottsbluff, Call (308) 635-3606



RESOURCE DIRECTORY

*****LINCOLN*****

Alcoholics Anonymous, Meetings:

**Thurs 7:30pm, Unitarian Church, 6300 "A", Lincoln. Info contact V.J. at 477-3526

**Fri 8pm, 1st Plymouth Church, 20 & D, Lincoln, 438-5214

BiPALS (Bisexual People / Alternate LifeStyle) Box 80913, Lincoln, 68501, 1st Mon. 7:30pm, Cornerstone (upstrs) 640N 16. All sexes welcome.

Ecumenical Catholic Church of America, 2201 N. 31st St., Lincoln 68503. (402) 464-0270. Pastor Jim Arling, Deacon Gary Balch; Prayer Meeting-Sun, 11am. Open Communion. Please Call with Questions/Prayer Requests. All Are Welcome.

Gay Men's Support Group, c/o Counseling & Psych Services, Rm 213, Univ. Health Ctr, UNL, Lincoln, 68588-0618, 472-7450. Confidential

Lesbian Discussion Group, Womens Resource Ctr, Room 340 Neb Union, UNL, Lincoln, 68588, 472-2597. Call for meeting information

Lincoln Women for Sobriety Mtg, Saturdays, 10am, Gathering Place, 15th & "E", Lincoln, Contact Judith at 472-2598 for information

The Male Space, 3rd Sunday 2pm, 1744 "L" St., Lincoln. Focus "Spiritual Healing", Gay/Bi Men, all ages, all races welcome. Membership \$12/year. Info write/visit: Mark Whitworth, Dir., 1744 "L" St. I-C, Lincoln, Ne. 68508 S.A.S.E.

National Org. for Women (NOW) Lincoln political/grassroots activist org. in issues relating to full equality for women-meets monthly, Lincoln NOW, Box 80172, Lincoln, NE 68501, 477-1226

Parents-Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), Box 30128, Lincoln, NE 68503-0128, 434-9880. 4th Tuesday, 7pm, Unitarian Church, 6300 "A", Group for family of people with HIV, and G/L Youth Group meet same time & place.

SAGE, Box 22043, Lincoln 68542-2043, Info, Conference Updates, Education for older Gay people, Intergenerational Coffee House 2nd Saturday, 6-9pm, Lesbian Videos at 7:15pm, at 3319 S. 46th, Lincoln, All welcome

UNL Gay/Lesbian Resource Ctr, Rm 234 Neb Union, 14 & R, Lincoln 68588-0455, 472-5644, Social, info, referral, library, General meetings Tuesdays, 7pm, during school year

The Wimm'n's Show, 12-3pm Sunday, KZUM, 89.3 FM stereo, Lincoln

A Woman's Place, Box 67035, Lincoln, 68506, nonprofit org dedicated to empowering women

Youth Talkline 473-7932, Friday & Saturday 7pm-Midnite, Lincoln. Emotional support, referrals, AIDS info for callers Age 23 and under. Project of Coalition for G/L Civil Rts

YWCA Counseling & Education Department, 476-2802, Lincoln. Information and Referral.

*****OMAHA*****

Alcoholics Anonymous,

**Stonewall Grp, Wed, 7:30pm, MCC-Omaha

**Gay Mens Stag "An Alternative", Fri, 7pm, call 455-7916 for location

**Live & Let Live Group, Pella Lutheran,

303 S. 41, Omaha Open Mtg Friday 8:15pm

A.N.G.L.E. (Achieving New Gay/Lesbian Endeavors), Box 8343, Omaha 68108-0343 Phone: 558-5303, Networking, consciousness raising, PRIDE activities throughout the year.

New Voice Internet Address:
tjrr05c@prodigy.com

Citizens For Equal Protection, Box 55548, Omaha, 68155, (402) 398-3027, Legislative action-eliminate discrimination for g/l/b employment, housing, education, public accommodations. 1st Thursday, 7pm, 1st Unitarian, 3114 Harney

EAGLE-Omaha, Employee Assoc. of Gays & Lesbians. US WEST. Contact Pat Phalen, 1299 Farnam, 11th Flr, Omaha 68102 (402) 348-8569

Frontrunners/walkers, Box 4583, Omaha 68104, HOTLINE:496-3658, Running/Walking Club (SASE for info)

Gay And Lesbian Organization of UNO (GaLo), for all UNO Students & sponsors, Meet Mondays 4-6pm on UNO Campus, Milo Bail Student Center, 3rd Floor, Board Room, Information call Jonathan Raymond (402) 571-8518 or Diallo Mudd (402) 554-3492 or Email

Gay And Lesbian Parents Group (G.A.L.P.), 1st Thurs, 7:30pm, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 345-2563. Emphasis on Gay/Lesbian Parent & significant other. Mtgs open to anyone.

Gay/Lesbian Information & Referral Line, A service of A.N.G.L.E., Inc., (402) 558-5303

Gay Lesbian & Affirming Disciples (GLAD) G/L/B/Affirming Disciples of Christ 553-2386

ICE BOWL Invitational Bowling Tournament, Box 3622, Omaha 68103-0622, Tournament is held President's Day Weekend each year.

Lutherans Concerned, 1st Sun 7pm 1st Luth, 31 & Jackson, Omaha 345-4080/453-7137

Metropolitan Club, PO Box 31484, Omaha, NE: 68131-0484, Meet third Thursday of month, For gay and lesbian professionals to meet, socialize, and network with others.

Men's Support Group, Meet Tuesdays 7:30pm, MCC Omaha, 819 S. 22 St. Call 345-2563

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha, 819 S. 22 Street, Omaha, 345-2563, Send mail to: Box 3173, Omaha, 68103, Children/Adult Christian Ed. 9am; Worship Service 9 & 10:30am

New Realities, Books, Tapes, Gifts, Old Market Passageway, 1026 Howard, 68102, 342-1863

National Org. for Women (NOW) Omaha political & grassroots activist org. issues of full equality for women-Omaha NOW, Box 3325, Omaha 68103-0325, (402) 391-7303, Meets 3rd Tuesday, 7pm, 1st Unitarian, 3114 Harney

Omaha Meatpackers, AIDS fundraising organization. Call: (712) 366-1791

Omaha Players Club (OPC), PO Box 34463 Omaha 68134, (402) 451-7987. Leather/SM education & play group. Men's & women's group.

Omaha Women for Sobriety meet Tuesdays, 5:30pm, Omaha YWCA, 222 S. 29 St., Contact Judith at 472-2598 for more info.

ONYX IMAGES, Box 31026, Omaha, NE: 68132-9998. Support/Social Fraternity for African American men. Age restriction for membership. Support for brothers of all ages.

Parents-Friends of Lesbians And Gays PFLAG 2912 Lynnwood Dr., Omaha, 68123, 291-6781. Meets 1st Methodist, 7020 Cass, Mead Hall, West End, 2nd Thurs, 7pm, "Program & Sharing", 4th Sunday, 2pm, "Sharing"

Presbyterians for Lesbian & Gay Concerns, 733-1360, Cleve, Omaha

River City Mixed Bowling League, Sundays, 1 & 3pm, Skylanes, Center Mall, Omaha

River City Gender Alliance, Box 680, Council

Bluffs, IA 51502 For crossdressers, transsexuals, & those wishing to know more. All orientations welcome. Newsletter. Meet 1st Saturday, Omaha

River City Mixed Chorus, Box 3267, Omaha, 68103-0267. 341-SING (341-7464). Volunteer chorus for Gay/Lesbian/Sensitive people

7th Day Adventist Kinship Inc, Support/Info Les/Gay College Student 800-4-GAY-SDA

Straight Spouse Support Grp 7-9pm, 1st Methodist 7020 Cass, Room 209, 291-6781

Women of the Plains, Box 24355, Omaha, 68124, Bring women's culture back to Omaha

Women's Support Group, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22nd, 345-2563. Meets Saturdays 11am

WomenSpace, Box 24712, Omaha 68124-0712, Quarterly newsletter for lesbian voices & events to build heartland lesbian community

Youth Support Group, sponsor: PFLAG. For gay, lesbian youth & those questioning sexuality, age 13-21. Meets Sat., Omaha, Call 291-6781.

REGIONAL/STATEWIDE

American Business & Professional Guild, Box 142, Sioux City, IA 51102, Network of gay business/professional men from IA, MN, SD, & NE. Meet last Sat. of each month, Write for info.

Coalition for Gay/Lesbian Civil Rts, Box 94882, Lincoln 68509 Advocacy, newsletter.

GLB Alliance, c/o Health Center, Hastings, College, Hastings, NE 68901. Info: Judy at 402-461-7372 (Health Center) or 402-462-2961 (home). For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Students & Friends - a safe place to meet, discuss & learn.

Gay & Lesbian Assoc. of Greater Nebr., Support meetings, social events, newsletter. Info: GLAGN, Box 2401, Kearney, NE 68848-2401 or call: (308) 472-3249

Heartland Gay Rodeo Association (HGRA), Box 3354, Omaha, 68108-9998. Info: Dan 344-3103. All who enjoy support rodeos & country activities. Meets 1st Saturday DC's, Omaha

Imperial Court of Nebraska, Box 3772, Omaha 68102 Organization for the advancement of Gay/Lesbian society, Board of Governors Meeting 1st Monday each month, All Welcome

Integrity Prayer Service, Wednesdays, 6pm, St. Thomas Episcopal, 12 & Douglas, Sioux City, IA. Call Al (712) 276-8369 or Rev. Kerr (712) 258-0141

Lincoln/Lancaster Drug Projects, 610 "J", Lincoln, 475-5161, Dennis Hoffman, Case Mgr. Outpatient chemical dependency treatment while affirming sexuality. Sliding Fee

The New Voice of Nebraska, Box 3512, Omaha 68103. Subs \$19/year. Deadline: 10th of month

Panhandle Gay & Lesbian Support Services, Box 1046, Scottsbluff, NE 69363-1046 Telephone (308) 635-8488

Parents-Friends of Lesbians and Gays PFLAG, Kearney, NE: meets 3pm, 3rd Sunday at St. Luke's Episcopal. Call (308) 382-0752 or (308) 995-5490. Direct correspondence to: PFLAG, 1320 8th Ave., Holdrege, NE 68849

PRIDE Group, c/o Counseling Ctr, Wayne State College, Wayne, NE 68787. Info: Karen or Virginia (402) 375-7321. Gay, Lesbian, Bi Students of WSC. Meet people, discuss issues, provide community service, educate, raise awareness

JANUARY CALENDAR

EVERY SUNDAY	EVERY MONDAY	EVERY TUES.	EVERY WED.
<p>Worship Services, 9 & 10:30a.m. MCC- Omaha, 819 S. 22, 345-2563</p> <p>Gay /Lesbian Walking Club, 10am, 38th & South, Lincoln, by tennis courts</p> <p>Ecumenical Catholic Church, Prayer Mtg, 11am, 2201 N. 31, Lincoln, 464-0270</p> <p>River City Bowling League, 1 & 3pm, Skylanes, 42nd & Center, Omaha</p> <p>PGLSS Line Dancing Lessons, 7-9pm, Western Nebr. Arts Center, Scottsbluff</p>	<p>Network Q, 3:30pm, Cable Channel 20, Lincoln</p> <p>GaLo UNO Student Grp, 4-6pm Milo Bail, 3rdFloor Board Rm, 571-8518/554-3492</p> <p>HIV Tests, NAP, 3610 Dodge, Suite 110, Omaha 7-9:30pm</p> <p>River City Mixed Chorus Rehearsals, 1st Methodist, 7020 Cass, Omaha, 7:15pm</p>	<p>Women for Sobriety 5:30pm YWCA, 222 S. 29, Omaha, Call Judith 472-2598</p> <p>Mens Support Group 7:30pm MCC, 819 S. 22, Omaha</p>	<p>Gay Men Disc Grp, Lincoln 6pm, Contact Luis 472-7450</p> <p>Frontrunners Run, 6:30pm, Brownell-Talbot, Omaha</p> <p>PFLAG AIDS Support Grp, Lincoln 7pm, call 475-2437</p> <p>Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30pm, Check for location</p> <p>Integrity Prayer Svc, 6pm, St. Thomas Episc, Sioux City, IA</p>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	<p><u>Jan 1 (1st Monday)</u> <u>New Years Day</u></p>	<p><u>Jan 2 (1st Tuesday)</u> Fiesta Bowl, Nebraska plays for Nat'l Championship 7pm AIDS Healing Service, 7pm, St. Francis Chapel, South & 11th St., Lincoln</p>	<p><u>Jan 3 (1st Wednesday)</u></p>
<p><u>January 7 (1st Sunday)</u> Frontrunners, 10am, Burke High, Omaha Family AIDS Support, 2-4pm, 1st Meth, Om "Rock for AIDS" Ranch Bowl, Omaha ICON "Snowbabes," The Run, Omaha, 8p Aramis & Friends, DC's, Omaha, 9:30pm</p>	<p><u>Jan 8 (2nd Monday)</u> ICON Board Mtg, 7pm The New Run Bar, Omaha AIDS Interfaith Service, 7pm, St Cecelias, Omaha</p>	<p><u>Jan 9 (2nd Tuesday)</u> Free/Confidential HIV Tests by Lancaster Co Health Dept, 5-7pm The Panic, Lincoln P-FLAG Omaha Board Mtg, 7:30pm, 1st Methodist, ANGLE Meeting, 7pm, UNO Religious Center, 110 N. Happy Hollow, Omaha</p>	<p><u>Jan 10 (2nd Wednesday)</u> Deadline for February Issue of <i>New Voice</i></p>
<p><u>January 14 (2nd Sunday)</u> Frontrunners, 10am, Central Park Mall, Om MCC PSC Circle, 6pm, Potluck, Call for location, 477-3215 Lincoln River City Mixed Chorus Concert, 7:05pm, Strauss Performing Arts, UNO Campus, Omaha</p>	<p><u>Jan 15 (3rd Monday)</u></p>	<p><u>Jan 16 (3rd Tuesday)</u> NOW-Nat'l Org for Women Lincoln: 7pm, Women's Club, 407 S. 14th, 477-1226 Omaha: 7pm, 1st Unitarian, 3114 Harney, 391-7303 Grand Island HIV Support Grp, 7pm, (308) 385-5175</p>	<p><u>Jan 17 (3rd Wednesday)</u></p>
<p><u>January 21 (3rd Sunday)</u> Frontrunners, 10am, Chalco Hills, Omaha Gender Alliance Forum, 12:30pm, MCC-O Community Resource Center Development Mtg, MCC-Omaha, 819 S. 22, 2-5pm PFLAG/Kearney, St Luke Episcopal, 3pm, 2304 2nd Ave, (308) 382-0752/995-5490 Raegun headlines show at DC's, Omaha</p>	<p><u>Jan 22 (4th Monday)</u></p>	<p><u>Jan 23 (4th Tuesday)</u> PFLAG, 7pm Unitarian Church, 6300 A, Lincoln, 467-4599 Frontrunners Monthly Mtg, 6:30pm, Omaha, 496-3658</p>	<p><u>Jan 24 (4th Wednesday)</u></p>
<p><u>January 28 (4th Sunday)</u> Frontrunners, 10am, Ford Birth Site, Om Poetry Reading, "Brian Bengtson & Fred Zydek", 2pm, Diner Theatre, Omaha MCC PSC Circle, 6pm, Potluck, Call for location, 477-3215 Lincoln Miss MAX, The MAX, 1415 Jackson, Omaha, 9:30pm</p>	<p><u>Jan 29 (5th Monday)</u></p>	<p><u>Jan 30 (5th Tuesday)</u></p>	<p><u>Jan 31 (5th Wednesday)</u></p>
<p><u>February 4 (1st Sunday)</u></p>	<p><u>Feb 5 (1st Monday)</u></p>	<p><u>February 6 (1st Tuesday)</u> ANGLE Meeting, 7pm, UNO Religious Center, 110 N. Happy Hollow, Omaha</p>	<p><u>February 7 (1st Wednesday)</u></p>

JANUARY CALENDAR

EVERY THURSDAY

HIV Test Site, Nebraska AIDS Project, 3610 Dodge, Suite 110, West Door. **Omaha** 7-9:30pm

G/L Alcoholics Anonymous, 7:30pm, Unitarian Church, 6300 "A" **Lincoln**. Call V.J. 477-3526

EVERY FRIDAY

Network Q, 1pm, Cable Channel 20, **Lincoln**
Outreach Center, HIV Info/Tests, 1-4pm, 1723 Leavenworth, **Omaha**

Lesbian Discussion Grp **Lincoln** 7:30pm 472-5644
Al-Anon - Cancelled

Alcoholics Anonymous Omaha: "An Alternative"
Mens Stag 7pm, Lowe Ave
"Live & Let Live" 8:15pm
Pella Lutheran, 303 S. 411
Lincoln: 8pm, Plymouth Congregational, 438-5214
Youth Talkline, 7pm-12m, Support/ Info for callers up to age 23, 473-7932, **Lincoln**

EVERY SATURDAY

Lincoln Women for Sobriety, 10am, Gathering Place, **Lincoln**, Judith 472-2598
Womens Support Grp, 11am, MCC-**Omaha**
Youth Support Grp, 291-6781, age 13-21 gay, lesbian, or questioning sexuality, **Omaha**
Youth Talkline, 7p-12m, 473-7932, **Lincoln**

THURSDAY

January 4 (1st Thursday)

Citizens for Equal Protection, 7pm, 1st Unitarian, **Omaha**
Gay & Lesbian Parent Support Group, 7:30pm, MCC-**Omaha**
NOW Program Night, 7pm, 1st Unitarian, 3114 Harney, **Omaha**

FRIDAY

January 5 (1st Friday)

Network Q, 1pm, Cable Channel 20, **Lincoln**
Outreach Center, HIV Info/Tests, 1-4pm, 1723 Leavenworth, **Omaha**
Lesbian Discussion Grp **Lincoln** 7:30pm 472-5644
Al-Anon - Cancelled

SATURDAY

January 6 (1st Saturday)

River City Gender Alliance, for Transgender community. Box 680, **Council Bluffs** 51502
Heartland Gay Rodeo Assoc, DC's, Omaha
General Meeting: 6pm

Jan 11 (2nd Thursday)

P-FLAG 1st Methodist-Mead Hall, "Rev. Lewis - How MCC Ministers to Families," 7020 Cass **Omaha** 291-6781 7pm
Straight Spouse Support Group 7-9pm, Mead Hall, 1st Methodist 7020 Cass, Room 209, 291-6781

January 12 (2nd Friday)

Frontrunners, 6:30 p.m., Friday Afternoon Club Gilligan's, **Omaha**
Outreach Center, HIV Info/Tests, 1-4pm & 10pm - 2am, 1723 Leavenworth, **Omaha**
Womyn's Book Discussion Group, will discuss *Serving in Silence*, Call Laurie 556-0937 or Beth 435-2418

January 13 (2nd Saturday)

Omaha Players Club Workshop: 2pm, Party: 8pm, Call Master Amy 451-7987
SAGE Coffee House 6-9pm, Lesbian Videos 7-15pm, 3319 S. 46, **Lincoln**, 488-4178
River City Mixed Chorus Concert, 7:05pm, Strauss Performing Arts, UNO Campus, **Omaha**

Jan 18 (3rd Thursday)

Metropolitan Club, 6:30pm, "What's New in Gay/Lesbian Literature" **Neon Goose**, 10th & Pacific, **Omaha**
GLAGN Support Group, **Grand Island**, (308) 384-7235

January 19 (3rd Friday)

Network Q, 1pm, Cable Channel 20, **Lincoln**
Outreach Center, HIV Info/Tests, 1-4pm, 1723 Leavenworth, **Omaha**
Lesbian Discussion Grp **Lincoln** 7:30pm 472-5644
Al-Anon - Cancelled

January 20 (3rd Saturday)

Vegas Night, Sponsored by GLAGN, 7pm, Izaak Walton Complex, **Grand Island**

Jan 25 (4th Thursday)

Network Q, 1pm, Cable Channel 20, **Lincoln**
Outreach Center, HIV Info/Tests, 1-4pm, 1723 Leavenworth, **Omaha**
Lesbian Discussion Grp **Lincoln** 7:30pm 472-5644
Al-Anon - Cancelled

January 26 (4th Friday)

Outreach Center, HIV Info/Tests, 1-4pm & 10pm - 2am, 1723 Leavenworth, **Omaha**

January 27 (4th Saturday)

American Professional & Business Guild, **Sioux City, IA**, For Information, write: ABPG, Box 142, Sioux City, Iowa 51102
Sock Hop, MCC-**Omaha**, 819 S. 22, 7pm

Feb 1 (1st Thursday)

Citizens for Equal Protection, 7pm, 1st Unitarian, **Omaha**
Gay & Lesbian Parent Support Group, 7:30pm, MCC-**Omaha**

February 2 (1st Friday)

Network Q, 1pm, Cable Channel 20, **Lincoln**
Outreach Center, HIV Info/Tests, 1-4pm, 1723 Leavenworth, **Omaha**
Lesbian Discussion Grp **Lincoln** 7:30pm 472-5644
Al-Anon - Cancelled

February 3 (1st Saturday)

River City Gender Alliance, for Transgender community. Box 680, **Council Bluffs** 51502
Heartland Gay Rodeo Assoc, DC's, Omaha
General Meeting: 6pm

Feb 8 (2nd Thursday)

P-FLAG 1st Methodist-Mead Hall, 7020 Cass, **Omaha** 291-6781, 7pm
Straight Spouse Support Group 7-9pm, Mead Hall, 1st Methodist 7020 Cass, Room 209, 291-6781

February 9 (2nd Friday)

Outreach Center, HIV Info/Tests, 1-4pm & 10pm - 2am, 1723 Leavenworth, **Omaha**

February 10 (2nd Saturday)

Deadline for March Issue of New Voice
Omaha Players Club Workshop: 2pm, Party: 8pm, Call Master Amy 451-7987
SAGE Coffee House; 6-9pm, Lesbian Videos 7-15pm, 3319 S. 46, **Lincoln**, (402)-488-4178

CLASSIFIEDS

HOME FOR HOLIDAYS

by Amanda Bearse

The first time you bring someone special home to meet mom and dad can be stressful. But, when you are a daughter, and you bring home a woman, this adds an entirely new dimension. Will they reject me and stop loving me? All sorts of fears race through your mind.

You could call me one of the lucky ones. As an openly lesbian actress on Fox's *Married...With Children*, my co-workers, fans, friends and family know and accept me for who I am. And while my family loves me and includes me in all our family celebrations, including the holidays, being the gay family member has not always been easy.

While it was not always easy, it has been my openness and honesty with my family about who I am that showed them the truth about gays and lesbians, not the negative stereotypes they learned from society. I'm not sure if there was a right time or a wrong time to bring someone I cared about home to meet my parents, but when someone plays a significant role in my life, I want them to be a part of the family. There is now no question in our house what family means to us.

But, many gays and lesbians choose not to include themselves in family celebrations because of fear of rejection. While I know of families that turn their backs on gay children, there are many more that are never given the chance to know their gay relatives because of the self imposed exile called "the closet." Now that I have a family of my own that includes my daughter, I cannot imagine her missing the joys of the season I have grown so fond of over the years. She won't have to, because I took the initiative to weave all parts of my life into the fabric of my family.

Lesbians and gays must acquaint "our families" with each other, showing them how loving and devoted our relationships are. For me, it meant having my friends meet my family, sharing those who matter to me with each other. It also included bringing my partner with me to work social events. This has shown my non-gay friends and family that my personal relationships are just as important and significant as theirs.

So, I encourage everyone to give the gift of yourselves this holiday season. For gay people, take the step that's right for you and come out to your family and friends, letting them know who you are and how being gay has no bearing on how good a son, daughter, or friend you are. At work, put a picture of your partner or friends on your desk, and discuss with the office manager company policies and benefits for domestic partners. (Most companies that have implemented domestic partnership benefits for their employees have done so because gay employees have asked for them.)

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with hundreds of Gay & Lesbian items. PHS 800-736-8919 (Ja96)

Got too many bills to consider a trip to where it's warm and sunny? You can still look tanned and lovely!! **St. Mary's Tan, 2202 St. Mary's Ave., 341-3740** (-95)

ORGANIZATIONS

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Attend the Imperial Court of Nebraska (ICON) Board Meeting **Monday, January 8, The New Run Bar, 1715 Leavenworth, Omaha, 7:00 p.m.**

MASSAGE

You work HARD and work-out even HARDER! *FULL-BODY MASSAGE will take the EDGE OFF and provide BALANCE* Serving Gay, Lesbian, Trans, Bi, & Hetero Communities. Gift Certificates Available. Hours: 6pm-6am. Weekend hours vary. OM/LIN APPT./INFO 342-1964 (Ja97)

Full Body Rub — Deep heat & Oils. Relax, Release Stress, Body Grooming. Call 6-10 p.m. and weekends only 491-3176 (Ja96)

OVERWORKED? UNDERPAID? STRESSED OUT? RELAX! Pamper yourself with Swedish Massage in the privacy of your home. Nationally/state licensed. Call 553-8657 for information/appointment. (De95)

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Did Mom send you money for Christmas since she didn't know what else to get? We have just what you're looking for at **St. Mary's Tan, 2202 St. Mary's Ave., 341-3740**

Attention young guys & Athletes! Sore muscles after than workout? **HANDSOME!** Blue-eyed blonde **FOR RENT.** My assets will caress your hard muscle. Call Marc, Mon-Thurs only at 342-6127. Leave discreet message. (Ja96)

PERSONALS for Womyn

Tall Feminine Gay White Female. Blonde, Blue eyed, 40, seeks Gay Female for Relationship. Am stable, romantic. Enjoy sports, dancing, movies. Call 453-7989, Julie. OK to leave message. (Ja96)

You've turned over a new leaf with the New Year! Check us out at **St. Mary's Tan.** We'll keep you looking your best through 1996. **St. Mary's Tan, 2202 St. Mary's Avenue, 341-3740** (-95)

PERSONALS for Men

Well-seasoned passionate salt 'n' pepper polar bear looking for other animals to service and worship. Discreet. Marrieds okay. No reciprocation expected or desired. Send details including photo and best way to reach you. Boxholder, POB 31007, Omaha 68131 (Ja96)

GWM, 39, HIV Neg, 6', 160#, Looking for males 25-40 for safe fun times. Must be well endowed. 402-457-4271 (Ja96)

GWM seeking other GWM's who want to look their best. Tan the safe, sane, consensual way at **St. Mary's Tan 341-3740** (-95)

GWM 38, 6', 180 pounds HIV Neg. Looking for GWM 25-40 for safe exciting fun. 402-455-2511 (Ja96)

Bi W/M, 45, wants young, healthy bi's to be bound and dominated. Will train. Gary, PO Box 8050, Omaha, NE 68108 or MasterGary@aol.com. (Ja96)

Cautious MWM, 5'9", 170 lbs. Desires young or married clean and good looking guy for first time bi. 554-1799 24-HRS. (Ja96)

Thermometer below zero? Got the January blues? Turn on the heat and enjoy a taste of summer with a tan from **St. Mary's Tan, 2202 St. Mary's Avenue, 341-3740** (-95)

The New Voice of Nebraska

Classified Ad

Write your ad here:

Classified ads in the *New Voice of Nebraska* are \$3.00 for 20 words or less. Each additional word is 20¢. Ads must be received by the 10th of the month preceding the month you wish your ad to appear.

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Nebraska DOMINANT SEEKS SUBMISSIVE:

GWM, 43, professional, dominant and hairy, seeks submissive and open minded boys who are ready to play. Please leave a message. #23767

Omaha BIG HEARTED:

GWM, lonely, 30, 6'1", 300, brown hair and eyes, shy, varied interests, seeks others, 20-40, for fun and more. Please leave a message. #24223

Eastern OLD AS YOU FEEL:

GWM, 58, disease free and discrete, seeks same, 45 or older, for casual relationship. Please leave a message. #22054

Nebraska LET'S MEAT:

GWM, early 40's, 6'5", 200, brown hair, blue eyes, professional, seeks others, 35-50, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. #15946

Omaha OPEN AND WILLING:

GWM, 6'2", 210, dark hair, gray eyes, hairy, 'stache/goatee, looking for fun and more. Open to anything. Please leave me a message. #15972

Omaha MESSAGE THERAPIST:

GWM, 30, 150, 5'9", weight lifter, toned, moderately hairy, brown hair, hazel eyes, clean shaven, varied interests, seeks others for friendship, massage and more. Please leave a message. #15499

Omaha TENSION RELIEF:

Bi WM, attractive, well built, seeks same, body builder's preferred, for long sessions of massage and more. Please leave a message. Satisfaction guaranteed! #16349

Omaha BUTCH BOYS ONLY:

Bi WM, 36, 170, well built, masculine and handsome, drug/smoke/dis-

ease free, varied interests, seeks very masculine and muscular men for friendship and more. Please leave a message. #16922

SIR, YES SIR! GWM, 33, 5'11", 170, dark blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks other males interested in friendship and Master/Slave reality. Please leave me a message. #21159

BOTTOM'S UP: GWM, 35, well built, 5'10", beard, blue eyes, blonde hair, seeks other submissive males for pleasure. Leave me a message #12385

FRIENDS FIRST: GWM, 5'11", 175, well built, seeks GWM's, 20-45, interested in friendship, and fun with relationship possibility. Please leave a message #12874

TALK TO ME: GWM, young professional, seeks other professional GWM's, 25-35, for interesting conversation and meetings. Please leave a message. #13101

ANY PORT WILL DO: GWM, 5'6", 160, moderately furry, Greek pass/act, good endwmt, seeks GBM/GLM, age not important. Please leave a message. #14073

Omaha SALAMI FOR YOU: Bart, new to area, 5'10, 170 dk hair must, Italian, hairy, masc discreet, lkg for 20-35, decent shape men, good looking, give me a call. #9620

Lincoln HOUSEBROKEN: I'm lkg4 someone in my area who is into fun and play. I'm 29 y/o, 6'3, 200lbs, blk/blk. If you want a houseboy, call me. #9691

Omaha YOUR COMMAND IS MY DESIRE: 25, GWM, very submissive, looking for very aggressive and masculine men to meet

on a regular basis. Leave me a message. #11040



Omaha TAKE CHARGE: Richard, 28, 6'3, 200 blk looking for someone clean, discreet and likes to take charge of things, give me a call. #7597

Columbus DISCREET MEN: 36, WM, looking for other guys in the area, or nearby, married or single, must be discreet. #9387

Omaha FIND ME SOMEBODY TO LOVE: It skinned BM 5'8 165, 47, looking for someone to love. #8294

Lincoln HELLO THERE: I'm 30 y/o, 5'11, 190lbs, reddish hair, mustache, blue eyes, I'm an educated prof'l lkg 2 meet guy's 20-50 to get to know. #8695

NE NEBRASKA DUDES: Jason, 25, blond/ 5'10 165, like to meet and talk with some guys in the area, give me a call. #6241

Omaha CONSERVATIVE GUY: Kyle, new to area, int in new friends, brn/blue, nice guys, 26, 165, ctn cut, conservative, hoping to meet the same hope to hear from you. #7140

Omaha SENSITIVE AND ROMANTIC:

GBM, cute guy, likes movies, quiet eyes, music and spending time with my lover, 24-40 slim and trim, I'm sensitive romantic and monogamous, race not impl. #6925

Millard BUILT TO LAST?

"Mike, looking for a well built guy 22-35 poss. rel, give me a call." #3642

Omaha BUTCH BOY

"young butch GWM into mountain biking, weight lifting, books and chess. lkg4 a friend into these things and more." #4230

Omaha Attractive bi

White male 25 no diseases no drugs muscular build would like to try to fulfill your fantasy. #1293

Norfolk Mike, 31 y/o 5'7 unattached love sports like to meet someone well built close to my age. #47487

Omaha LETS PARTY: I'm 25 y/o and I'm in school. I'm lkg4 someone 19+ who likes to have fun, party and meet new people. call me! #46292

Omaha GREAT LEGS: 24 y/o bi WM 5'8 190lbs well built, great legs, beautiful butt. I'm lkg4 men over 30 who appreciate a very young sub guy. discretion a must! #45970

Omaha FREE AT LAST: recently divorced 35 y/o lkg4 someone 28-40 who is mature, responsible and friendly, if interested, please leave a message! #46013

Lincoln TAKE CARE OF YOU: 32 y/o guy interested in meeting a guy who is lkg2 spend time away from the bars. I travel a lot and I'm lkg4 someone to take care of! #46274

Omaha I NEED A REAL MAN:

24 y/o professional hair stylist lkg4 a very dom, hairy, well built man to take charge, you must be real hot and ready for anything. #46292

Lincoln LETS SPEND THE NIGHT TOGETHER:

6'2 blonde/blue 185lbs lkg4 someone with long hair. I spend a lot of time outdoors and I like rock and country music. I'm lkg2 meet someone to spend some time with call me! #46361

Lincoln TATTOO LOVER:

I'm a 28 y/o btm into tattoo's, WS, and watching video's. call me! #46511

Omaha LOOKING FOR EXCITING TIMES:

GWM 198lbs, 5'11, 38 y/o lkg4 fun and exciting times. for more info, please call. #45835

Lincoln LETS DO IT: I'm 22 y/o, 5'10, 140lbs and I love to do many things. call me! #45285

Omaha FUN LOVING: 25 y/o professional hairdresser in Omaha. I'm lkg2 meet a fun loving, caring guy 22-32 who likes to have a good time. body hair ok. #46292

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Make A Little Love And
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